



# Western Sydney University, Indigenous Centre of Excellence

Heritage Impact Statement

July 2025

# Document Information

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# 1. Introduction

## 1. 1. Introduction

### 1.1. The Purpose of this Report

This Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) has been prepared by Curio Projects to support a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) for the combined development of:

1. A new Indigenous Centre of Excellence; and
2. The installation of two temporary car parks.

The Indigenous Centre of Excellence project is funded by the NSW Government's Western Sydney Infrastructure Grants Program in association with Western Sydney University.

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 new Indigenous Centre of Excellence (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 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.

The works are proposed within the Western Sydney University (WSU) Parramatta South Campus which is listed on the State Heritage Register as the 'Rydalmere Hospital Precinct (former)' (SHR No. 00749) and located within the vicinity of one local heritage item, the "Wetlands" (Item No. I011), listed within the Parramatta LEP 2023.

This HIS consolidates and supersedes two separate reports previously prepared for the individual projects:

- The HIS for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence by Curio Projects (May 2024); and
- The HIS for the Temporary Car Parks by TKD Architects (October 2024).

The purpose of this combined report is to identify and assess the cumulative and individual heritage impacts of the proposed developments on the SHR-listed campus and surrounding heritage context.

This HIS is based on architectural documentation prepared by Jackson Clements Burrows and other supporting technical information submitted with this application, including:

- Environmental Impact Statement prepared by Ethos Urban
- Landscape Architectural plans prepared by Jane Irwin Landscape Architecture

This report describes the site, its environment, the proposed development, and provides an assessment of the heritage impacts.

The HIS has been prepared by Celine Louizos in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Australia ICOMOS, 2013, Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance and The Burra Charter
- Government Architect NSW, 2017, Better Placed: An integrated design policy for the built environment of New South Wales
- Heritage Council of NSW, 2002, Statement of Heritage Impact
- Heritage Office, 2001, Assessing Heritage Significance
- Heritage Council of NSW, 2008, New Uses for Heritage Places: Guidelines for the Adaptation of Historic Building and Sites
- NSW Heritage Office, 2005, Design in Context: Guidelines for Infill Development in the Historic Environment

## 1.2. Project Background

### Site Identification

The Western Sydney University South Parramatta Campus is located 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.

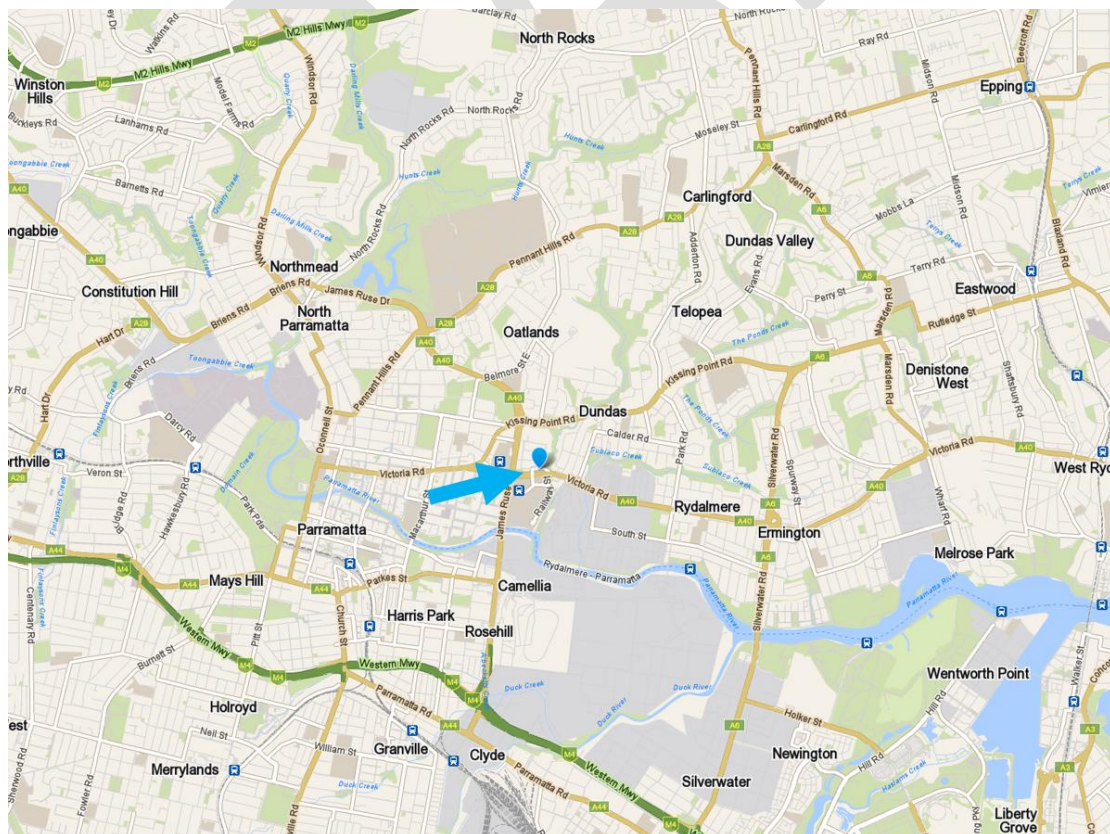


Figure 1-1 : Location map of the subject site. Source: Where is, accessed 2024.



Figure 1-2: Plan of Parramatta campus with Building EN study area marked in yellow. Source: WSU, 2022



Figure 1-3: Western Sydney University Parramatta South Campus locational context. Source: Nearmap/Ethos Urban

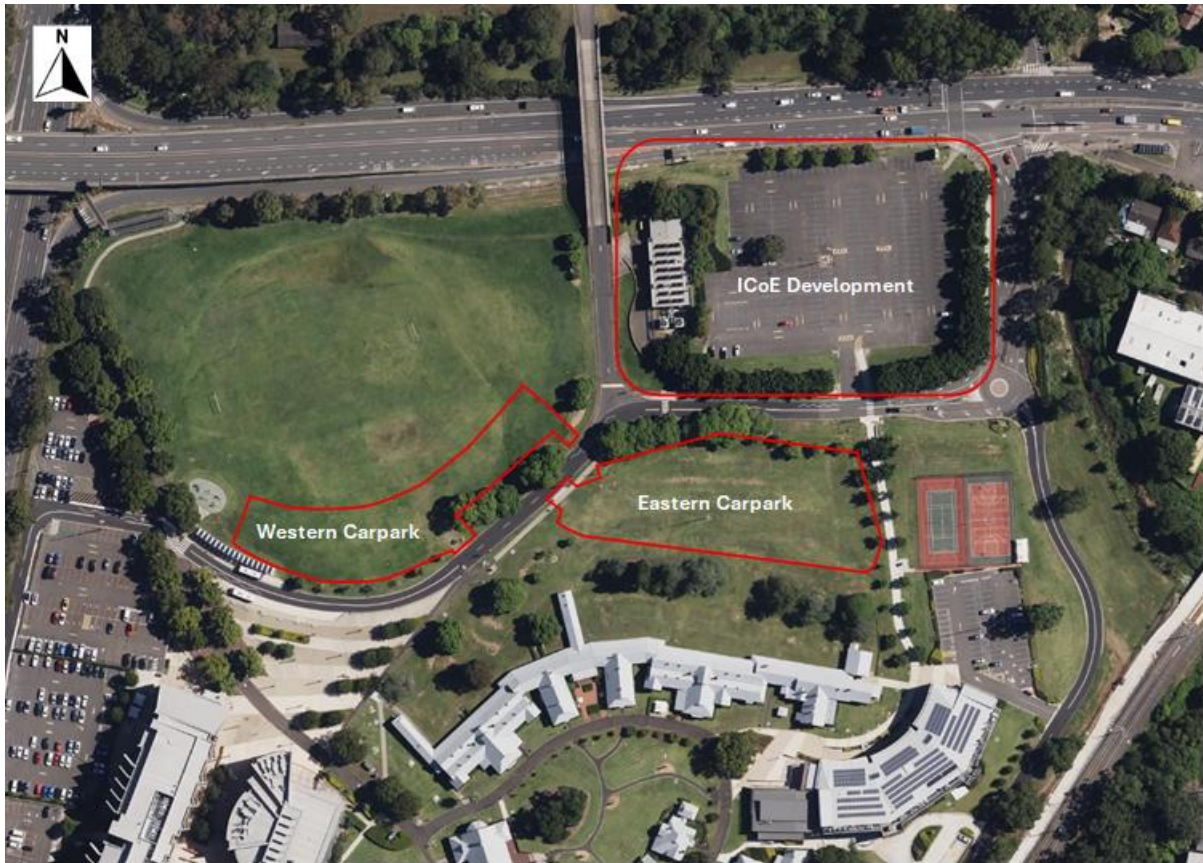


Figure 1-4: Annotated aerial view indicating the location of the carparks and the ICoE Development.

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                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>20. Environmental Heritage</b></p> <p>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.</p> | <p>This document meets this SEAR in regard to preparation of a Heritage Impact Assessment.</p> <p>A separate Archaeological Assessment has been prepared by Curio to meet the further requirements of this SEAR.<sup>1</sup></p> |

1.4. Limitations and constraints

This HIS does not include the assessment of any non-heritage related planning controls or requirements.

1.5. Authorship

This report has been prepared by Celine Louizos, Heritage Specialist, with review by Kate Wine, Principal, and Natalie Vinton, CEO.

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

## 2. Statutory Context

## 2. Statutory Context

### 2.1. Heritage Statutory Framework

In NSW, heritage items and known or potential archaeological resources are afforded statutory protection under the:

- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) (EPA Act).
- *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW) (Heritage Act); and
- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW) (NPW Act).

There are further planning policies and controls that provide a non-statutory role in the protection of environmental heritage. This includes the Sydney Development Control Plan. This section of the report discusses the local and State planning context for the site concerning its built heritage values associated with local heritage items and conservation areas in the vicinity of the study area.

#### 2.1.1. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (NSW) 1979

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment administers the EPA Act, which provides the legislative context for environmental planning instruments to be made to legislate and guide the process 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) or Regional Environmental Plans (REPs). The EPA Act also requires that potential Aboriginal and historical, archaeological resources are adequately assessed and considered as part of the development process, following the requirements of the NPW Act and the Heritage Act.

#### 2.1.2. Heritage Act (NSW) 1977

In NSW, heritage items are afforded statutory protection under the NSW Heritage Act 1977 (the Heritage Act). Heritage places and items of importance to the people of New South Wales are listed on the NSW State Heritage Register (SHR). The Heritage Act defines a heritage item as a 'place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct'. The Heritage Act 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'.

#### 2.1.3. Statutory Heritage Listings

The site is listed on the State Heritage Register (00749) and is listed as a local heritage item Rydalmere Hospital Precinct (former)" by Parramatta LEP 2023.

The site is located within the vicinity of a number of heritage items listed within Schedule 5, Part 1 of the Parramatta LEP 2023.

Refer to Figure 2 and Table 2 below which illustrates the items within the vicinity of the site. The significance of these items and their relationship to the subject site are further described within Section 5 of this report.

#### 2.1.4. Parramatta Local Environmental Plan 2023

The study area is located within the City of Parramatta LGA. Clause 5.10 of the Parramatta LEP 2023 sets out objectives 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 listed items are also situated in the vicinity of the study area. These are presented in Table 3 and Figure 4.

The study area is zoned SP2 – Infrastructure, Educational Establishment, under the Parramatta DCP 2023 and LEP 2023 and is Crown Land, owned and managed by the Western Sydney University.

#### 2.1.5. Parramatta Development Control Plan 2023

The Parramatta Development Control Plan (DCP) 2023 is a non-statutory development control plan that provides the 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.

Part 7, Chapters 7.4, 7.7 and 7.8 of the DCP outlines general objectives for Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal heritage and archaeological resources in the LGA. These are presented in Table 2-1 below.

Table 2-1: Heritage objectives as outlined in the Parramatta DCP 2023.<sup>2</sup>

| DCP Section                  | Objectives                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Heritage                     | <i>O.01 Ensure the appropriate management of heritage in the City.</i><br><i>O.02 Retention and reinforcement of the attributes that contribute to the heritage significance of items, areas and their settings.</i><br><i>O.03 Ensure development is compatible with the significance and character of the area so that the new work does not detract from the historic buildings and their amenity to/or from the streetscape.</i> |
| Archaeology                  | <i>O.1 Provide appropriate conservation and management of the archaeological resources to the City.</i><br><i>O.2 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 | <i>O.1 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><br><i>O.2 Minimise the likelihood of disturbance to protect Aboriginal sites and archaeological relics.</i>                                                                                           |

<sup>2</sup> City of Parramatta Council, 2023. *Development Control Plan. Part 7, Heritage*,

## Camellia and Rydalmere Strategic Precinct

The study area sits within the *Camellia and Rydalmere Strategic Precinct* under Section 8.24 of Chapter 8 within the Parramatta DCP 2023. Objectives for the Precinct are presented below:

1. *Protect and support one of Sydney's significant industrial and educational hubs.*
2. *Create a vibrant, attractive and mutually supportive industrial, educational and research precinct.*
3. *Maintain and improve existing access to major public transport links outside the area.*
4. *Encourage industrial development that is innovative and incorporates into its business best practice environmental management.*
5. *Require development along the foreshore to be of a scale and character that is in keeping with its foreshore location, protection and enhancement of the unique visual and ecological qualities of the waterways and foreshore.*
6. *Improve the access and circulation for local traffic flows accessing the employment areas while protecting the level of service of James Ruse Drive and Victoria Road.*
7. *Improve public access along the foreshore to create a regional pedestrian and open space network.*
8. *Conserve and enhance identified views and encourage the conservation and adaptive reuse of heritage items within the Camellia and Rydalmere Precincts and wider community use and access of these assets.*
9. *Maximise opportunities for new development to support tourism as well as the racing industry.*
10. *Require industry to operate using best practice environmental management techniques.*
11. *Minimise energy and resource use and reduce impact to off-site air quality or disturbance by noise, odour, dust, water, soil and contamination.<sup>3</sup>*

## The University Special Area

The study area also sits within *The University Special Area* within the *Camellia and Rydalmere Strategic Precinct* under Section 8.2.4.7.3 of Chapter 8 of the Parramatta DCP 2023. The character statement for the area is presented below:

*The University, comprising an area of historical significance set by the Parramatta River, will continue to be developed as a key centre of learning for Western Sydney. Heritage buildings and their settings will be preserved and adaptively reused as modern educational facilities. New development will ensure that glimpses of the heritage buildings from Victoria Road and James Ruse Drive will be maintained. Where appropriate, public pedestrian access and cycleway linkages along the river and between hinterland and the river, and recreation opportunities, will be pursued and implemented while protecting the riparian vegetation with appropriate setbacks along the Parramatta River. Opportunities for improving access to water based transport will be pursued. The bushland east of the railway line will be retained. The Parramatta River and Vineyard Creek foreshores will be enhanced with vegetation locally native to the area through bush regeneration, except where exotic species have been identified for retention through a conservation management plan, while conserving significant and historic views from and to heritage items situated along the Parramatta River.<sup>4</sup>*

Design Principles for *The University Special Area* are outlined in Table 2-2 below.

---

<sup>3</sup> City of Parramatta Council, 2023. *Development Control Plan. Part 8*

<sup>4</sup> City of Parramatta Council, 2023. *Development Control Plan. Part 8.*

Table 2-2: Design Principles for *The University Special Area*.<sup>5</sup>

| No. | Controls                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| C.1 | <i>Development must conserve and enhance items of heritage significance consistent with a Conservation Management Plan for the area</i>                                       |
| C.2 | <i>Development must respect, conserve and respond to key views identified in that Plan</i>                                                                                    |
| C.3 | <i>Development must protect and enhance cultural plantings and native bushland and other natural features along the foreshore</i>                                             |
| C.4 | <i>Development must provide for public access along the foreshore</i>                                                                                                         |
| C.5 | <i>The scale and character of the development must recognise and complement the unique visual qualities of the site</i>                                                       |
| C.6 | <i>Development should integrate with the public transport network and facilitate access for pedestrians and cyclists to the site and, where appropriate, through the site</i> |
| C.7 | <i>The siting and design of the development must minimise adverse effects from adjoining land uses, including noise from James Ruse Drive</i>                                 |
| C.8 | <i>Development must enhance the key approach routes to Parramatta, being James Ruse Drive, Victoria Road, the rail line and Parramatta River</i>                              |

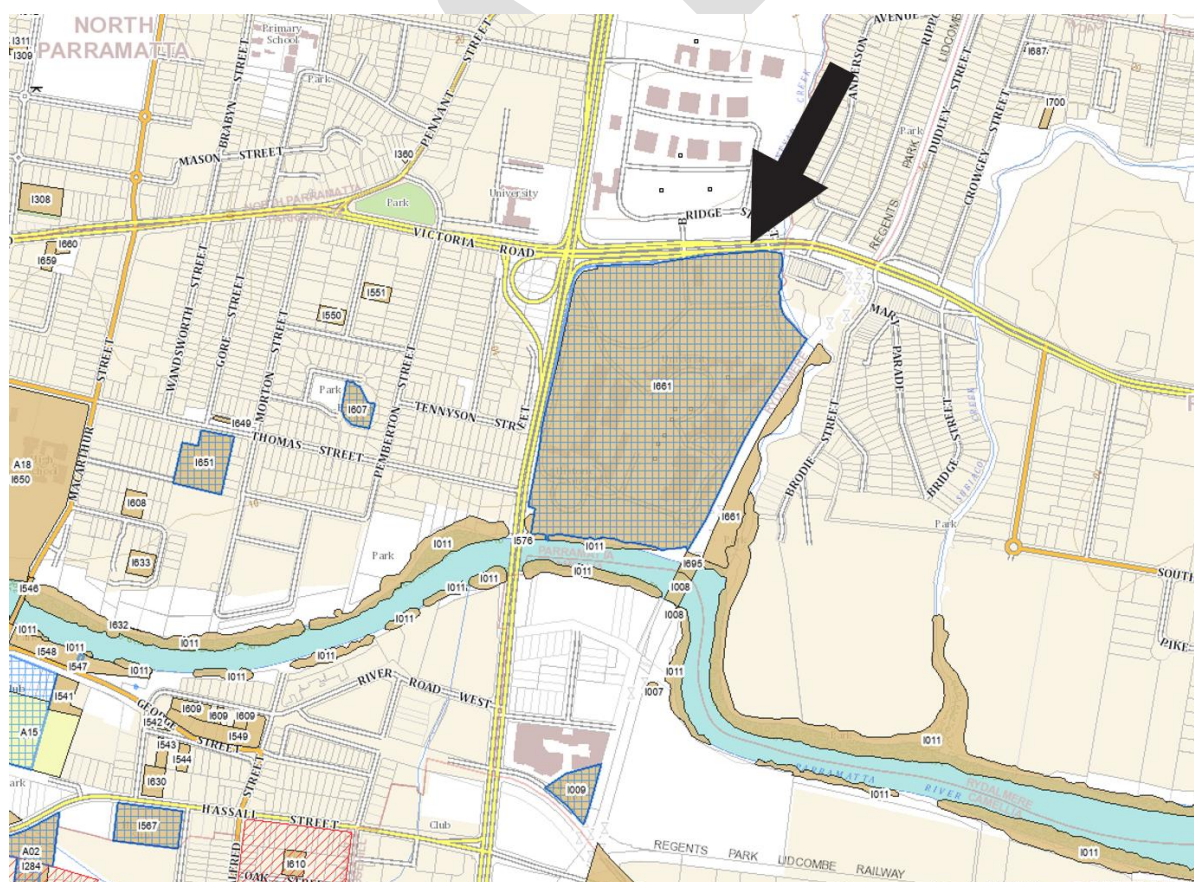


Figure 2-1: Map of locally listed and State Listed heritage items.

<sup>5</sup> City of Parramatta Council, 2023. *Development Control Plan. Part 8*

## 2.2. Heritage Items and HCAs in the vicinity of the Study Area

Table 2-3 provides a summary of all statutory heritage listings both included within, as well as in the vicinity of, the study area, illustrated in figure 4.

Table 2-3: 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 |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b><i>Within the study area</i></b>                |                                                                                    |          |                                  |                                     |                                |
| 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                         |
| <b><i>Significant buildings within the Lot</i></b> |                                                                                    |          |                                  |                                     |                                |
| 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                         |
| 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                         |

| Register                                | Item name                                                                               | Item No. | Address                          | Significance | Relationship to the study area |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 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                       |
| 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                        |

| Register                                | Item name                                                              | Item No. | Address                          | Significance | Relationship to the study area |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 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                         |

### 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.<sup>6</sup>

Prior to European colonisation, the study area comprised uncleared open forest in the north-western section and a creek running roughly E-W through open eucalyptus woodland in the rest of the study area.<sup>7</sup> The study area may have been intentionally burnt to create the open forest within the riparian zones and alluvial deposits and open woodland on the shale dominated soils. The open forest/woodland may have comprised Sydney Blue Gum, Blackbutt and Stringybark, with Paperbarks within the flood zone.<sup>8</sup> The former creek is a tributary of what is now known as Vineyard Creek, which is, in turn, a tributary of the Parramatta River. During this period, the creek within the study area may have been utilised for seasonal resource gathering.

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<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> CAB Consulting & The Tree School, 2003

<sup>8</sup> Ibid



Figure 3-1: Parramatta River 1867. Source: National Library of Australia (nla.pic-an6452950)

### 3.1.2. Early Contact

Aboriginal inhabitants of Parramatta, including the Burramattagal people of the Darug Nation would have experienced the detrimental impacts, dislocation and hostility which resulted from European arrival and colonisation. Parramatta was the second area to be colonised in New South Wales, intended to supply the Sydney colonial 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 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 means 'the place where the eels lie down' in Darug Language*<sup>9</sup>

The study area itself was located within the Field of Mars Parish, which sat to the north of the Parramatta River and was developed later than the township to the south. The study area appears to have remained as uncleared open woodland and forest and not subjected to post-colonial colonization prior to the receipt of land grants in the area.

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<sup>9</sup> Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists, 2003, *Parramatta City Council Aboriginal Heritage Study*. Prepared for Parramatta City Council.



Figure 3-2: South-west view of Parramatta 1811. Source: Sydney Living Museums (Rec No. 31759)



Figure 3-3: George Street 1825 0 displacement of local Aboriginal communities. Source: Parramatta City Council – *Parramatta's Indigenous Heritage*

### 3.2. Arthurs Hill: 1791 to 1810

The study area formed part of a 60-acre land grant awarded in 1791 to Assistant Surgeon Thomas Arndell in recognition of his service as the resident medical officer at Parramatta's temporary hospital, established in 1789. Arndell named the property Arthur's Hill and undertook agricultural

development, clearing approximately 18 acres for cultivation and a further 3 acres at the northern and southern ends of the grant for unspecified purposes. The land retained remnant open Eucalyptus woodland and forest, particularly along the Parramatta River, Vineyard Creek, and a former east-west running creek (Figure 4.4).

By 1792, Arndell had established a small hut and outbuildings—likely near Vineyard Creek, although outside the present study area—to support his family and farming efforts.<sup>10</sup> However, in late 1792 a bushfire destroyed these structures along with a wheat stack.<sup>11</sup> The exact location of these buildings remains uncertain but they were probably within the southwestern portion of the grant. Following this disaster, Arndell exchanged his Parramatta land for other holdings at Baulkham Hills and later received a larger grant at the Hawkesbury as compensation.<sup>12</sup> Arthur's Hill was resumed by the Crown, and although there were plans as early as 1800 to establish an orphan school on the site, no formal use of the land is recorded until 1810.<sup>13</sup> During this period, the area remained largely cleared apart from the remnant vegetation along the waterways.

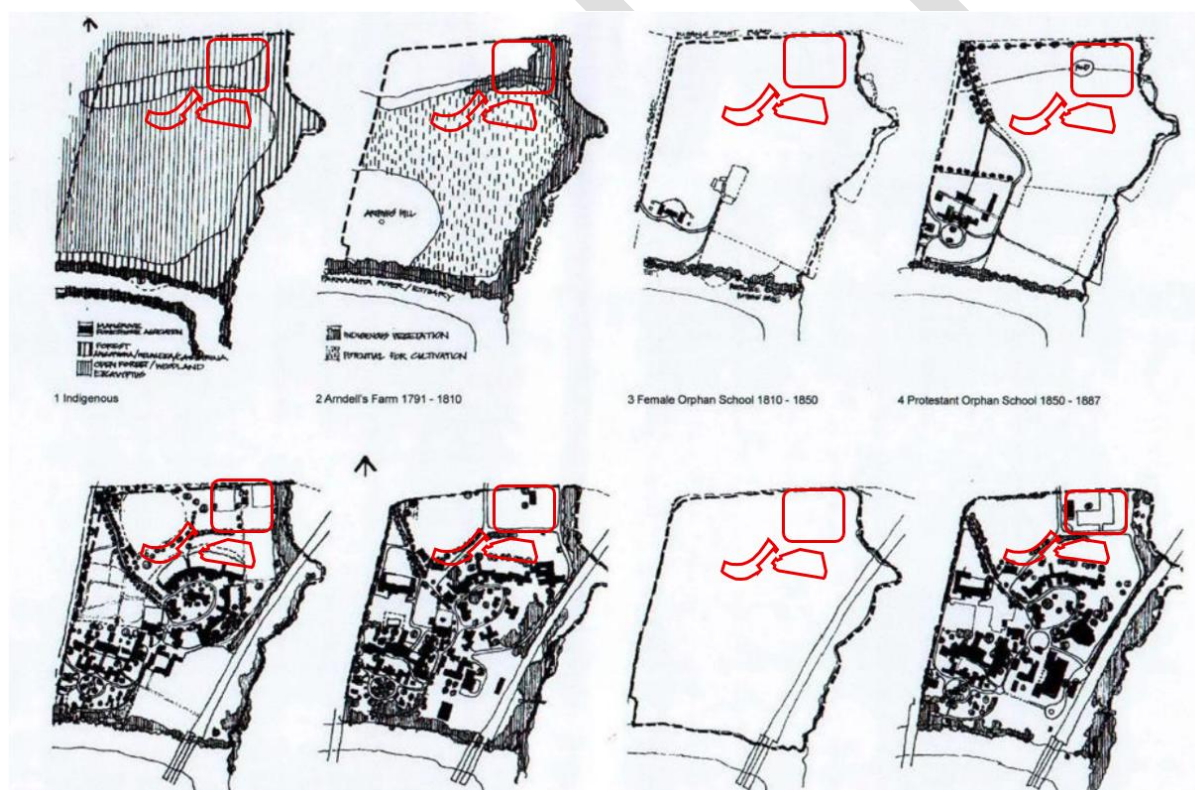


Figure 3-4: Indicative phases of occupation of the WSU Parramatta South campus, approximate location of study area in red.  
Source: CAB Consulting & The Tree School 2003

### 3.3. The Female Orphan School: 1810 to 1887

In 1810, Governor Lachlan Macquarie acquired Arthur's Hill for the establishment of the Female Orphan School, setting aside the land as the site for a new institution for destitute girls. The

<sup>10</sup> Casey and Lowe, 2007, *Non-Indigenous Archaeological Assessment University of Western Sydney Parramatta Campus*

<sup>11</sup> Collins, D., 1798. *An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales*, Vol. I

<sup>12</sup> Conybeare Morrison International, 2008

<sup>13</sup> Ibid

foundation stone was laid by Macquarie on 25 September 1813, and by 1818 the three-storey Palladian-style brick building, inspired by Elizabeth Macquarie's childhood home in Appin, Scotland, was completed (Figure 3-5).<sup>14</sup> The school featured a central building with corridors linking two-storey east and west wings, and it was accessed via a stone jetty and gravel drive from the river, or by Orphan School Lane, which terminated at a loop on the upper slopes of the hill (now James Ruse Drive). The main school complex sat on the crest of Arthur's Hill, nearly 200 metres south-west of the current study area.<sup>15</sup> 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.<sup>16</sup>

The Female Orphan School initially accommodated 70 girls, though numbers rose to around 170 by 1833. The institution was intended for girls between the ages of five and thirteen, though younger children were sometimes admitted. Many pupils were not strictly orphans but were from families unable to care for them, including children of convicts, single parents, and the severely impoverished. Aboriginal children were also admitted, particularly following the closure of the Native Institution in 1822.<sup>17</sup> The surrounding land was cultivated from the early 1820s, with orchards, a kitchen garden, and paddocks enclosed by split-rail and paling fences.<sup>18</sup> By 1826, the gardens extended to about six acres, with a gardener in residence. In the 1830s and 1840s, further improvements included ornamental plantings, shrubs, and trees, with orphans contributing to the maintenance of these gardens as part of their vocational training.

Within and around the study area, the land remained largely undeveloped during this period. Remnant open Eucalyptus woodland persisted along watercourses such as Vineyard Creek and a former east-west running creek.<sup>19</sup> Two dams were constructed along Vineyard Creek in the late 1830s and early 1840s to supply water for plantings, supported by a pump and pipe system designed by Brown and Busby.<sup>20</sup> Although no specific uses of the study area are recorded, it likely functioned as grazing paddocks or open space supporting the school's broader agricultural and horticultural operations. A reserve for stock grazing was also established in the 1830s, expanding the school's holdings to 110 acres north of Victoria Road. While the orphanage buildings suffered from early inadequacies in drainage, water supply, and brickwork, these issues were gradually addressed through additions and repairs during the 1820s and 1830s.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Tanner & Associates, 2000

<sup>15</sup> Conybeare Morrison International, 2008

<sup>16</sup> Public Works Department, 1988, *Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital evolution with a statement of its significance*, Section 3.2.3.

<sup>17</sup> Western Sydney University, 2017. 'The Female Orphan School: 1813 to 1850'. *Western Sydney University*. Accessed on 9 August 2023 at:

[https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/femaleorphanschool/home/the\\_female\\_orphan\\_school\\_1813\\_to\\_1850](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/femaleorphanschool/home/the_female_orphan_school_1813_to_1850)

<sup>18</sup> CAB Consulting & The Tree School, 2003

<sup>19</sup> CAB Consulting & The Tree School, 2003

<sup>20</sup> CAB Consulting & The Tree School, 2003

<sup>21</sup> Tanner & Associates, 2000



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

### 3.4. The Protestant Orphan School: 1850 to 1887

By 1850, the Female Orphan School and Cabramatta Male Orphan School had been amalgamated, and the site became the Protestant Orphan School. In 1854, the first purpose-built structure for the combined orphanage, a hospital, was established at the site to the north of the central building. An 1865 report from the Inspector of Public Charities found the schools at Rydalmere to be in need of repair; around this time, there were 236 children residing at the school.<sup>22</sup> In 1868, a new kitchen was constructed and during 1870, an extensive program of additions and renovations were undertaken.<sup>23</sup> A new school building was constructed, described as being a 'model building', and the Master's Residence was likely built at this time. The additional school building was erected to the rear of the Female Orphan School central building and was linked with a covered walkway (Figure 3-6). The west wing of the new school building housed the boys' facilities, while the girls' department was housed largely in the east wing. In 1882, a forty-bed dormitory was constructed on the south-western corner of the western wing. The playgrounds to the north of the school were created as enclosures, with areas for the boys and girls separated with central sandstone walls and delineated elsewhere by timber fences.<sup>24</sup>

Additional ornamental plants were planted during this phase and the areas of cultivated ground and pasturage for grazing animals were expanded. In 1870, Moreton Bay Figs and Stones Pine trees were

<sup>22</sup> Tanner & Associates, 2000

<sup>23</sup> Western Sydney University, 2017. 'The Protestant Orphan School: 1850 to 1886'. *Western Sydney University*. Accessed on 9 August 2023 at: [https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/femaleorphanschool/home/the\\_protestant\\_orphan\\_school\\_1850\\_to\\_1886](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/femaleorphanschool/home/the_protestant_orphan_school_1850_to_1886)

<sup>24</sup> CAB Consulting & The Tree School, 2003

provided by the Sydney Botanic Gardens and planted along Victoria Road and the new access road from the north-western entrance to the site, which traversed the floodplain and the E-W running creek. During this phase, a pond was created along the E-W running creek within the study area, and the creek may have been formalised as a drainage channel (Figure 3-6 and Figure 3-7).<sup>25</sup> Some of the 1870 Moreton Bay Figs and Stones Pine trees donated by the Sydney Botanic Gardens may have been planted along the northern boundary of the study area. It is likely that the area was used for agricultural purposes in connection with the Protestant Orphan School at this time.<sup>26</sup>

Significant shifts in government policy regarding the education and care of destitute children occurred throughout the operational life of the combined orphanage. By the 1870s, there was growing support for integrating orphans into the broader community, primarily through boarding arrangements with foster families. This shift was formalised in 1882 when Henry Parkes introduced the State Children Relief Act, which established the State Children's Relief Board to oversee the fostering of children within the community. As these new philosophies and administrative structures took hold, funding for orphanages dwindled. By 1886, the remaining 32 children at the Protestant Orphan School in Rydalmere were apprenticed out, leading to the effective closure of the institution in September that year. The final closure followed in 1887, marking the transition to the preferred model of residential care known as 'boarding out'.<sup>27</sup>



Figure 3-6: Protestant Orphan School building and covered way from the central Female Orphan School building c.1870–80.  
Source: State Library NSW, Government Printing Office 1 - 06149

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<sup>25</sup> Ibid

<sup>26</sup> Ibid

<sup>27</sup> Conybeare Morrison International, 2008

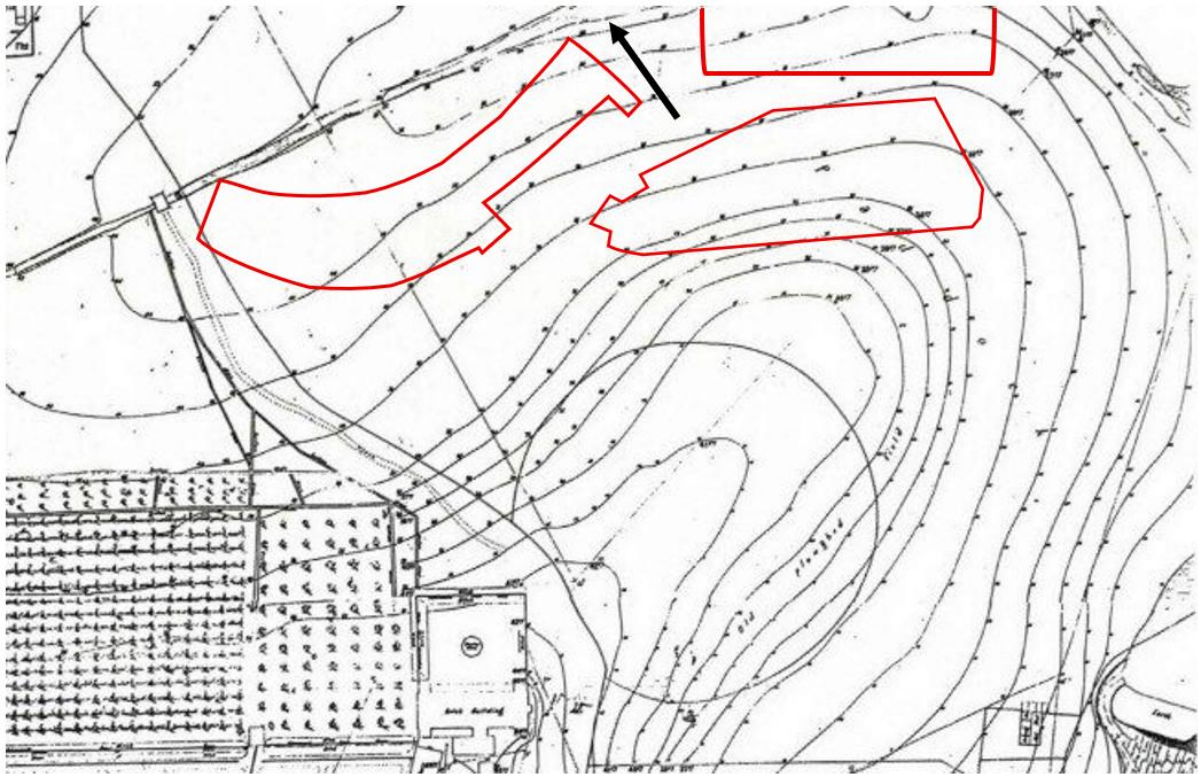


Figure 3-7: 1893 Surveyor's plan showing contour features and buildings within the area dedicated for the hospital for the Insane, Rydalmere. The former alignment of a creek ran through both the ICoE and western car park areas (arrow). Source: Land Titles Office 682-3000

### 3.5. 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 3-9). 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. The hospital was renamed the Rydalmere Hospital for the Insane in 1891 after being granted independent status by the NSW government.<sup>28</sup> During this period, the study area was occupied by a vegetable and fruit garden.<sup>29</sup>

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.<sup>30</sup> Plantings for new gardens across the landscape were established using trees

<sup>28</sup> Conybeare Morrison International, 2008

<sup>29</sup> Tanner & Associates, 2000

<sup>30</sup> Public Works Department, 1988. *Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital evolution with a statement of its significance*

and shrubs from the Royal Botanic Gardens.<sup>31</sup> Additional landscaping occurred in the 1960s and 70s, although this was more informal.<sup>32</sup>

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 the study area. 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 3-7 and Figure 3-8). 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.<sup>33</sup> 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 3-8). 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. In the centre of the southern boundary of the study area is a pit, which may have been used for dumping waste products. 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 and Figure 3-11).

By 1943 (Figure 3-12), the pond had been infilled and the drainage ditch extended across the full extent of the study area. A path ran roughly N-S through the study area with a small bridge crossing the ditch near the centre of the study area. A tennis court had been constructed near the north-western corner of the study area. A fence also appears to have been installed to the south of the ditch in the south-eastern corner. 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. 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 (Figure 3-13), 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. 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).

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<sup>31</sup> Conybeare Morrison International, 2008

<sup>32</sup> Ibid

<sup>33</sup> Conybeare Morrison International, 2008; CAB Consulting & The Tree School, 2003

By 1960 (Figure 3-15), 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. 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.

A 1970 aerial (Figure 3-16) 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. However, by this time, the overhead road of Bridge Street directly to the west of the study area was constructed over Victoria Road.

By 1985 (Figure 3-17), the northern driveway along Victoria Road had been removed and replaced with an informal driveway from the southern boundary along Fifth Street. 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. 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.<sup>34</sup>

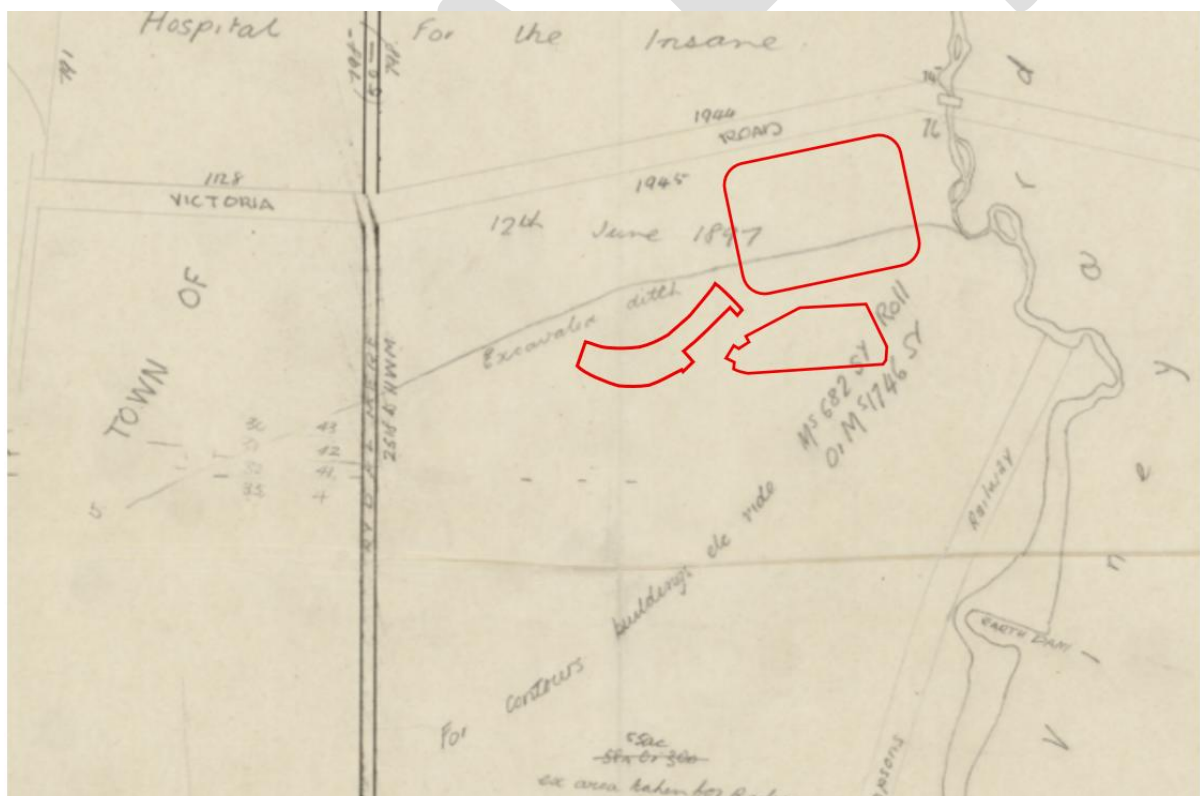


Figure 3-8: undated sketch plan of Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital, likely dating to c.1897-1924, showing an excavation ditch running through the study area. Source: State Library NSW FL9082344, 008 – Z-SP-R19-8

<sup>34</sup> Conybeare Morrison International, 2008

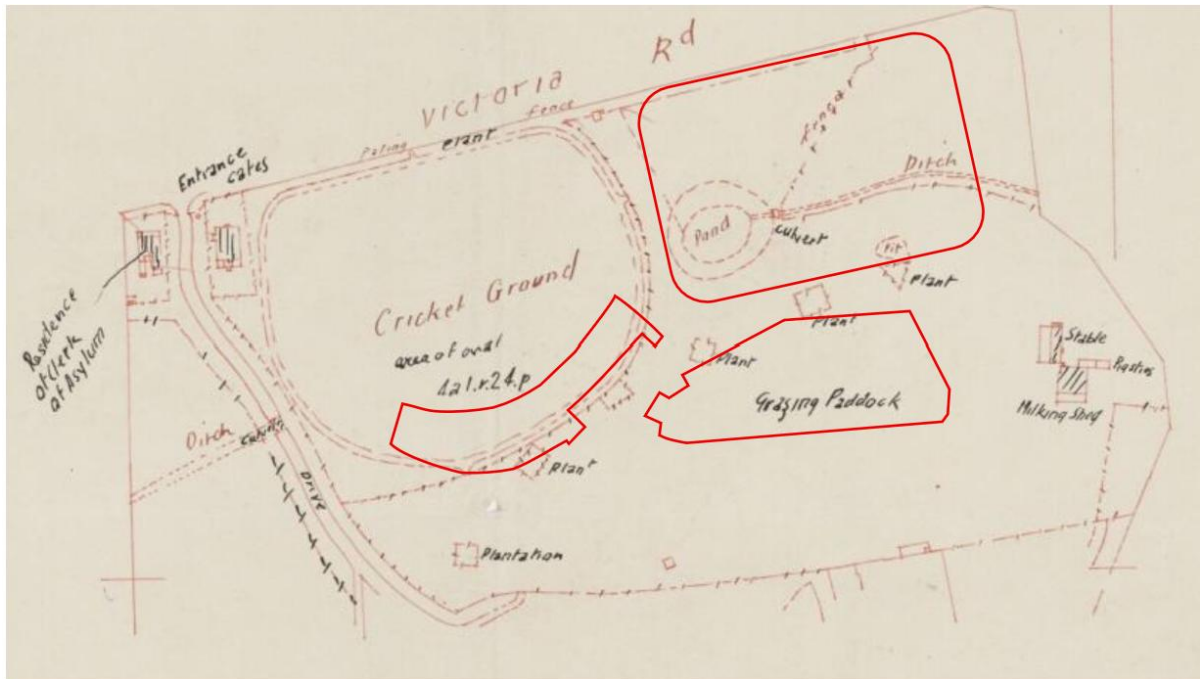


Figure 3-9: c.1897-1924 plan of the northern end of the Hospital grounds, showing a pond, ditch, culvert, and fencing in the ICoE boundary, grazing paddock in the eastern car park and plantations in the western car park. Source: State Library NSW FL9085182,013 – Z-SP-R19-13



Figure 3-10: Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital, around 1890. Source: State Records NSW, NRS 5598

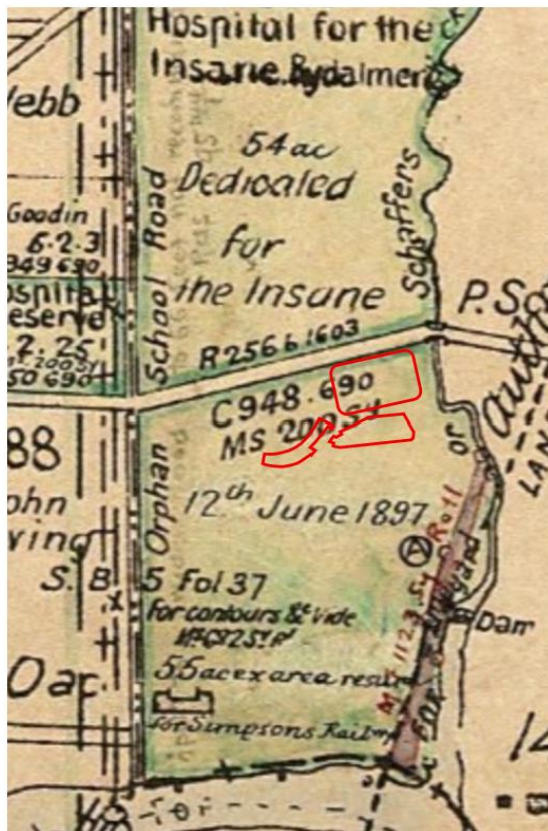


Figure 3-11: 1899 Parish Map of the Field of Mars, showing the study area within the land dedicated for the Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital. Source: HLRV, 14014001



Figure 3-12: 1922 Parish Map of the Field of Mars, showing the study area within the land dedicated for the Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital. Source: HLRV, 14013501

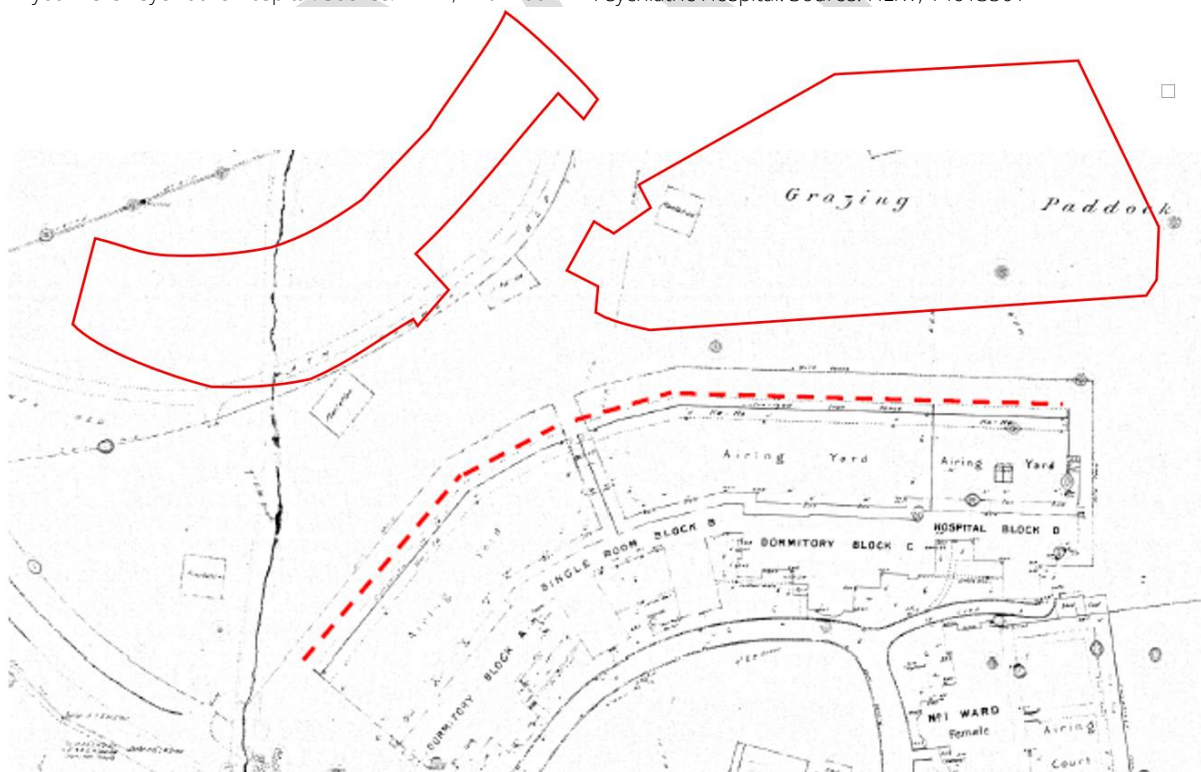


Figure 3-13: Detail from Hospital for the Insane, Rydalmere (1903). Wards 13-16 have been built and the airing yards on the north side of the buildings are defined by ha-has (dashed red). Note this plan is assumed to be made prior to the works, as the ha-has are much more angular than the curved as-built lines visible on the 1943 and 1951 aerial photography of the site. Source: WSU, formerly Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital – General Plan – Frame 1

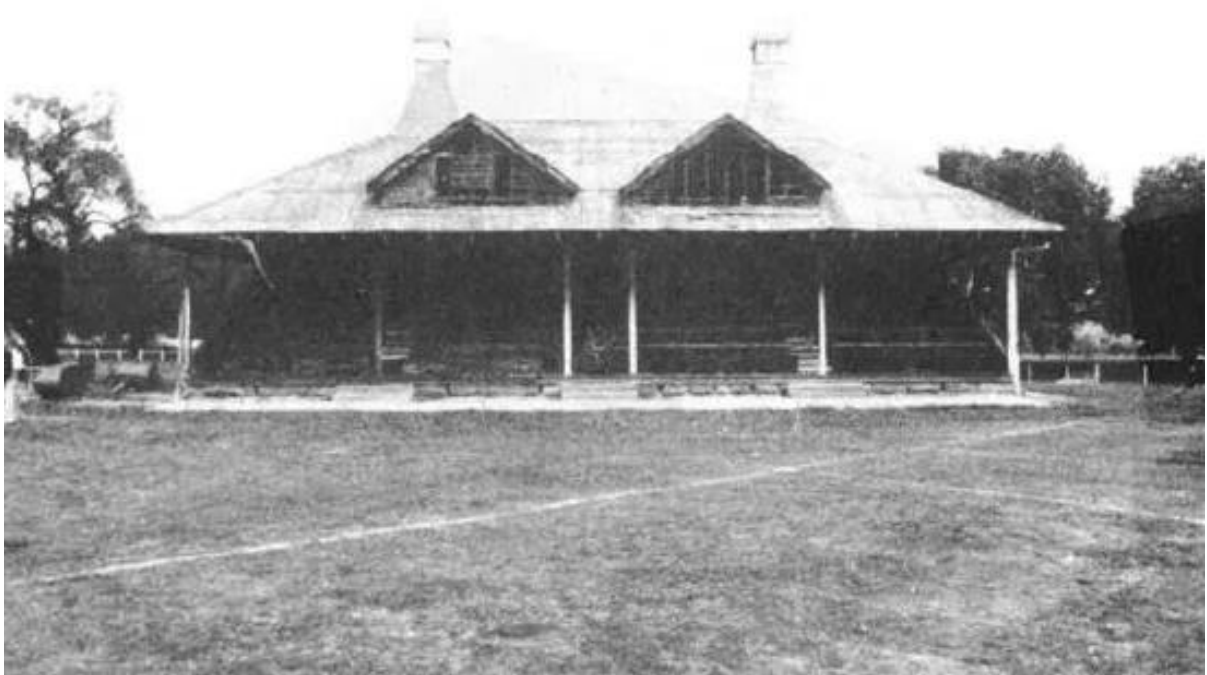


Figure 3-14: Cricket Pavilion c.1915. Source: Kerr; Proudfoot; Thorp; Burton & Burkett, 1982: 247, Figure 6.29



Figure 3-15: 1943 aerial photograph of study area mostly cleared, a road running roughly NE, a tennis court, a fence along the north boundary, the drainage line and trees visible. Note the retained melaleuca tree (yellow). The bright white lines within the study area are likely paved paths at the top of the ha-ha ditch, while the fainter white line is likely the ha-ha wall or an external path. The three sheds appear to be insubstantial shelter sheds. The cricket pavilion sits close to the bounds of the western car park. Source: SIX Maps

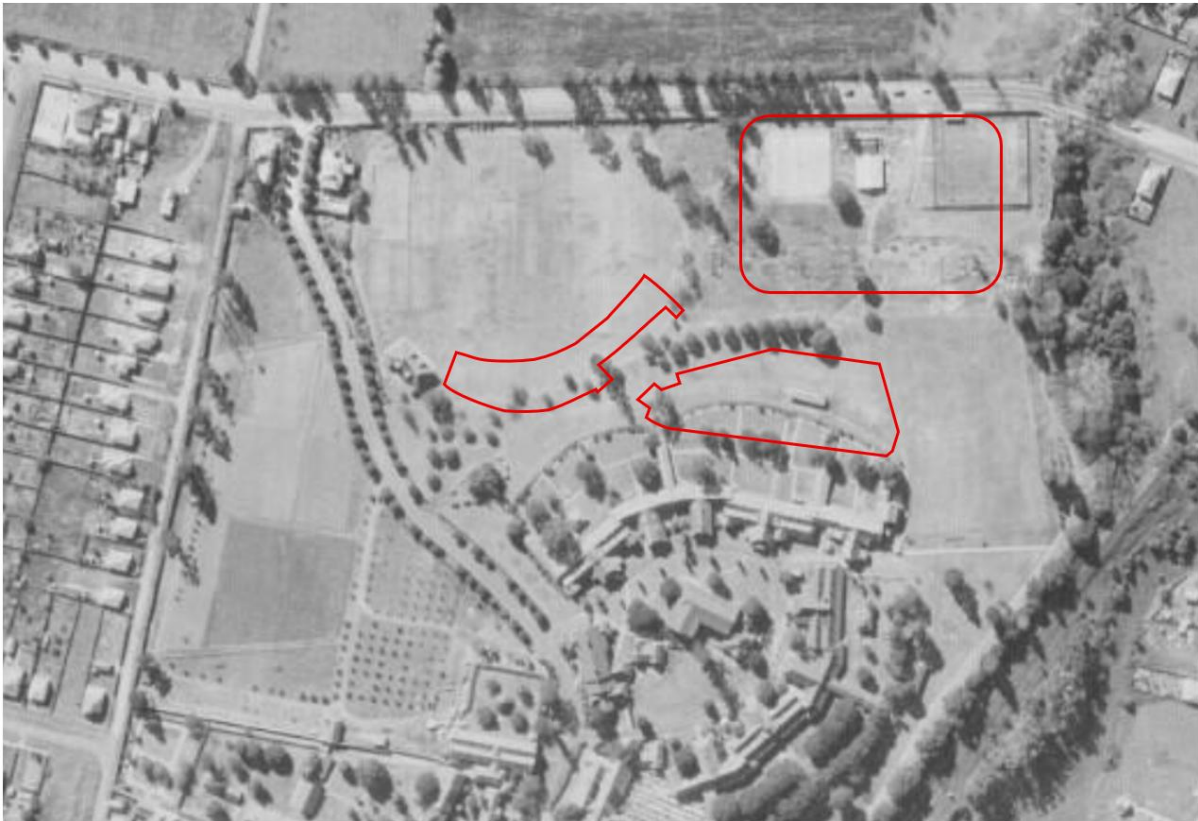


Figure 3-16: 1950 aerial photograph of the study area with new buildings, fenced areas, tennis court and paths, and the drainage line partially infilled. The eastern and western car parks remain relatively unchanged other than the removal of two of the shelter sheds. Source: Historical Imagery NSW

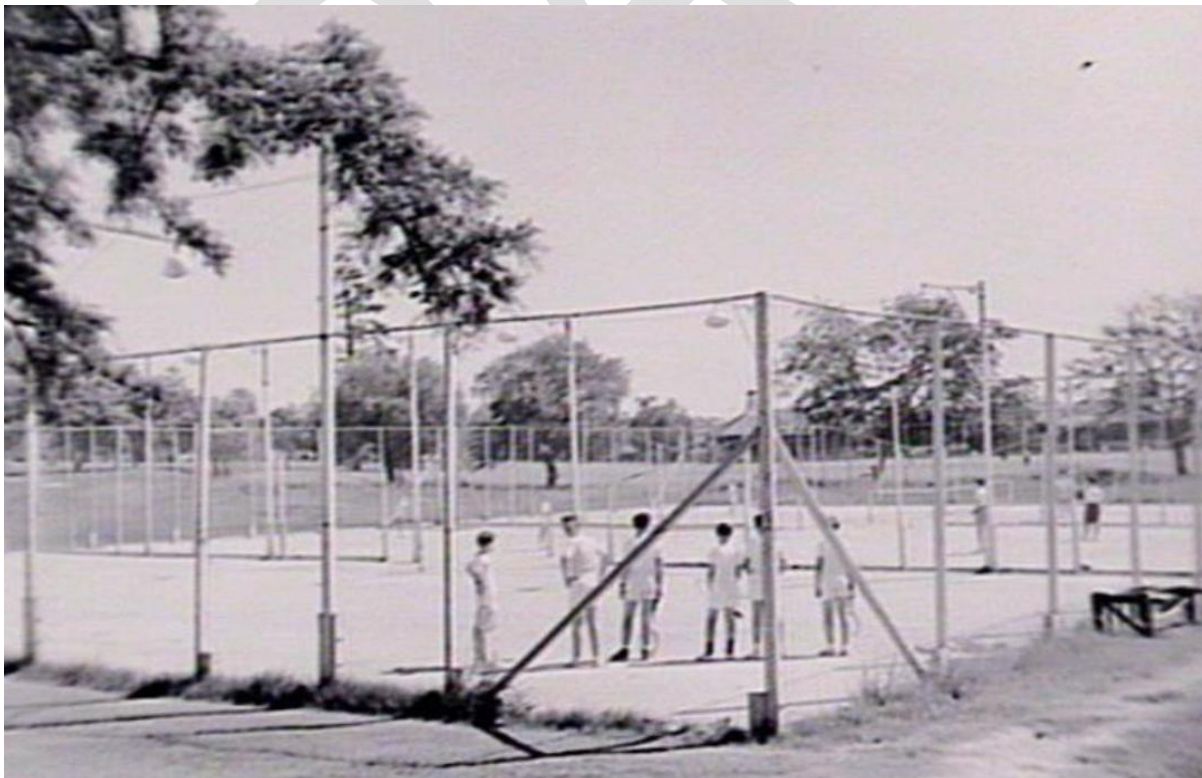


Figure 3-17: 1958 photograph of the former tennis court within the study area, comprising a paved surface with tall timber posts. View from north-eastern corner of the tennis court, looking south-west, with the cricket field in the background. Source: <https://collection.sl.nsw.gov.au/record/nX60pN8Y>



Figure 3-18: 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. Little to no change to the western and eastern car parks. Source: Historical Imagery NSW



Figure 3-19: 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: Historical Imagery NSW



Figure 3-20: 1986 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: Historical Imagery NSW

### 3.6. Vacant: 1989-1993

The site of the former Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital was vacant for four years following the closure of the hospital in 1989.<sup>35</sup> No formal or informal activities are recorded for the study area during this period.

### 3.7. 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.<sup>36</sup> 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.<sup>37</sup> The 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*

<sup>35</sup> Conybeare Morrison International, 2008, p. 6.

<sup>36</sup> 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](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/femaleorphanschool/home/dereliction_and_restoration_1989_to_present)

<sup>37</sup> Conybeare Morrison International, 2008, p. 10.

*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.*<sup>38</sup>

Although the CMP states that the Co-generation Plant Building was constructed around 2000,<sup>39</sup> aerial photography indicates that the Co-generation Plant Building, along with the associated car park and brick retaining wall within the study area, were actually built around 1997 (Figure 3-21). During this period, the brick fence along the northern boundary was demolished, leaving only the foundation bricks marking its former alignment.

The mid to late 1990s also saw extensive earthworks and the installation of modern services across the area. Although a 1998 pamphlet produced by UWS does not specifically depict the area north of Building ED (proposed eastern carpark), it provides a sense of how ground levels were altered and re-formed during this time (Figure 3-22).

Further modifications occurred in the early 2000s. In 2005, the car park was extended to the northwest and east, reaching its current footprint (Figure 3-24). The boundary trees appear to have been planted in two stages, prior to 2008 and again around 2009. Small-scale additions have followed, such as the installation of a north-western entrance sign in 2014 and the placement of ticketing machines and wayfinding signage. Aerial imagery from 2009 shows the conversion of the cricket oval (the location of the proposed western car park) into a temporary car park (Figure 3-25), the outline of which remained visible until at least 2012 (Figure 3-26) during the realignment of Fifth Avenue. By 2013, grass had largely regrown over this location (Figure 3-27). A dry spell in 2017 enabled the previous alignment of the ha-ha walls/paths to be visible within the proposed eastern car park (Figure 3-28). Most recently, in 2022, the cricket oval underwent re-turfing and the installation of a perimeter fence (Figure 3-29)

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<sup>38</sup> Conybeare Morrison International, 2008, p. 6.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid

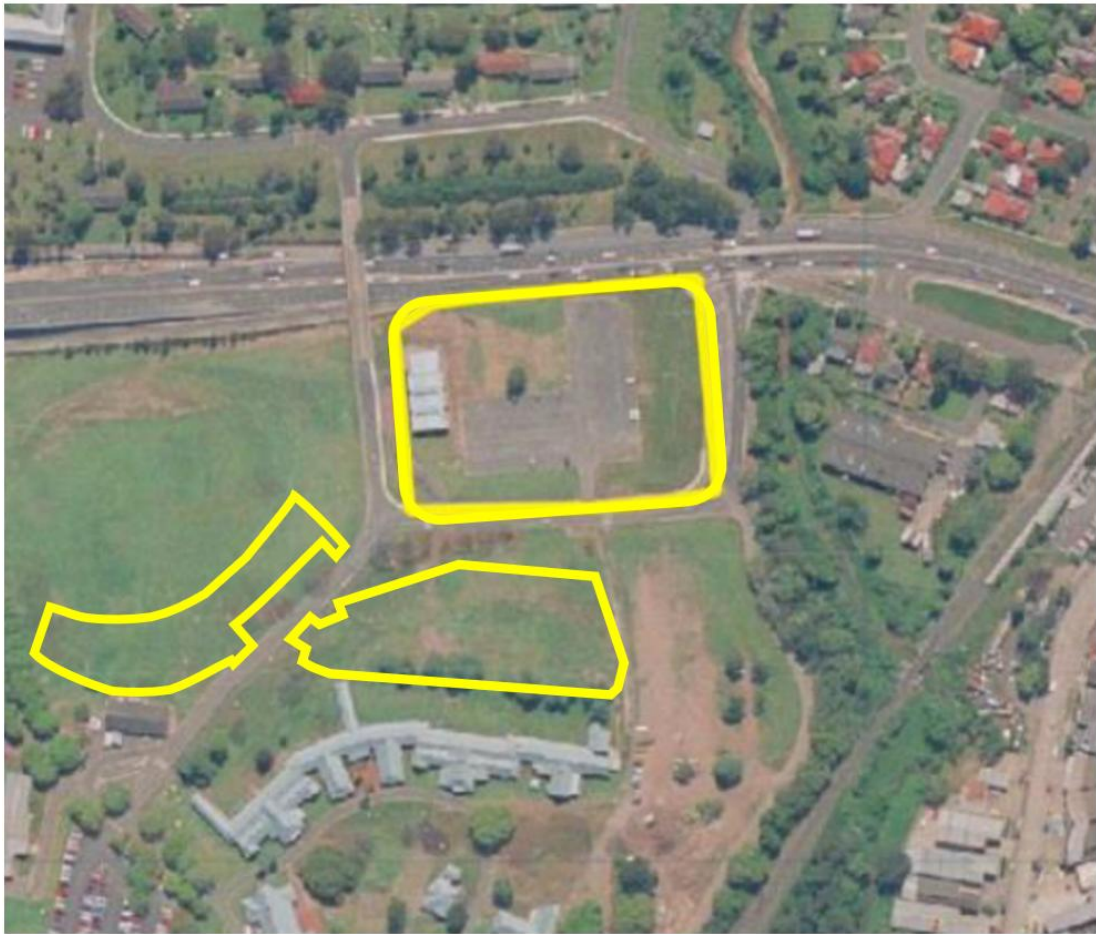


Figure 3-21: 1997 aerial photograph of the study area showing the recent construction of the carpark, the Co-Generation Plant Building (Eda) and landscaping. Source: Historical Imagery NSW



Figure 3-22: 1998 works including trenches dug for water, gas and electricity. Source: WSU 1998 pg 10 via AMBS 2024



Figure 3-23: 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 3-24: 2005 aerial showing the extension to the P1 carpark. Cars are starting to park along the cricket oval. Source: Historical Imagery Viewer



Figure 3-25: 2009 aerial with instatement of temporary carpark within the cricket oval. Source: Nearmap



Figure 3-26: Western carpark area when Fifth Street realignment work were occurring in 2012. Source: Nearmap



Figure 3-27: 2013 aerial after Fifth Street realignment – temporary carpark outlines still visible on the cricket oval (black arrow).  
Source: Nearmaps



Figure 3-28: 2017 aerial (December) with dried out grass – remnant outlines of the ha-ha walls and/or paths (black arrow).  
Source: Nearmaps



Figure 3-29: July-Nov 2022 aerals showing the re-turfing and fence installation of the cricket oval. Source: Nearmaps

### 3.8. 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 Psychiatric Hospital 1888 to 1989
- Vacant: 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

As described within Section 1 of this report, the study area comprises the site of the proposed ICoE building, and the new temporary car parking areas to its south and south west. The affected areas are described in detail below.

#### 4.1.1. ICoE site

The ICoE site 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 site 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 ICoE site 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.

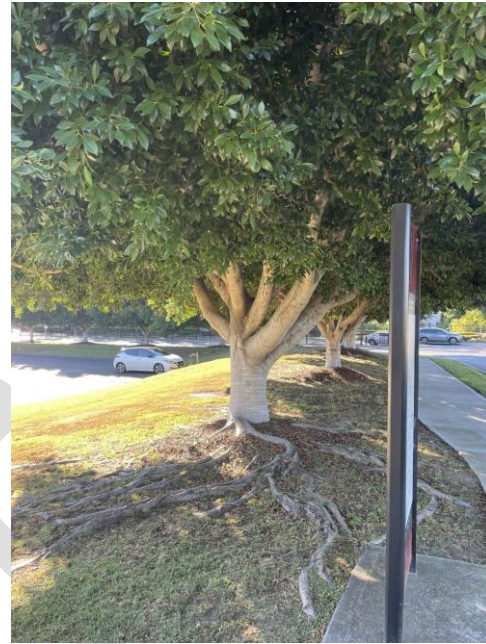


Figure 4-12: The c.2009 *Ficus microcarpa var hillii* (hills fig) trees lining the southern study area boundary, view east. Source: Curio Projects, 2023.

#### 4.1.2. Eastern and western car park areas

This site description has been extracted and abbreviated from AMBS' Historical Archaeological Assessment, Impact Assessment and Research Design (2024) for the Proposed Temporary Car Park – Eastern Study Area, and AMBS' Historical Archaeological Assessment, Impact Assessment and Research Design (2024) for the Proposed Temporary Car Park – Western Study Area.<sup>40</sup> For a full site analysis, please refer to Appendix A and B.

The two areas of proposed car parks are located on either side of Fifth Street: the western car park is situated in the grassed area around the oval, from the intersection of Bridge and Fifth Street curving around the southeast quadrant of the oval; the eastern car park is situated on the north side of Building ED/Vernon Building between two rows of mature trees.<sup>41</sup>

The proposed eastern car park location is located in a predominantly flat and grassed ground that is between Fifth Street and Building EB/Vernon Building.<sup>42</sup> In the southernmost third of the study area steeply rises up to near-flat plateau approximately 10m, with a second, less abrupt rise occurring

<sup>40</sup> AMBS Ecology & Heritage, 2024, *Western Sydney University, Parramatta South Campus Proposed Temporary Car Park – Eastern Study Area Historical Archaeological Assessment, Impact Assessment and Research Design*. Prepared for Western Sydney University; AMBS Ecology & Heritage, 2024, *Western Sydney University, Parramatta South Campus Proposed Temporary Car Park – Western Study Area Historical Archaeological Assessment, Impact Assessment and Research Design*. Prepared for Western Sydney University

<sup>41</sup> Ibid

<sup>42</sup> Ibid

southwards toward a row of mature trees which forms a second plateau.<sup>43</sup> These terraces form a raised semicircular mound along the north side of the Building EB/Vernon Building (Figure 4-13), which radiates outwards from the central sleep-out building and then dissipating to be roughly in line with the toilet block at northeast corner of the building.<sup>44</sup> Running parallel to the curve of the first rise on the first plateau is a slight linear depression and grass that shows patchy linear areas of browning and less grass growth along the crest of the first plateau (Figure 4-14 and Figure 4-15).<sup>45</sup> The mound size and volume indicate that these were the result of machine excavations during the c.1998 works across the campus.<sup>46</sup>



Figure 4-13: Location of eastern car park showing the crest of the steeper slope (dashed red) and crest of the more gentle slope (dashed blue). There is a slight depression in the flatish area between the two slopes. Source: Adapted from Figure 4.1 in AMBS Ecology & Heritage, 2024, Western Sydney University, Parramatta South Campus Proposed Temporary Car Park – Eastern Study Area Historical Archaeological Assessment, Impact Assessment and Research Design.

<sup>43</sup> AMBS Ecology & Heritage, 2024, *Western Sydney University, Parramatta South Campus Proposed Temporary Car Park – Eastern Study Area Historical Archaeological Assessment, Impact Assessment and Research Design*. Prepared for Western Sydney University; AMBS Ecology & Heritage, 2024, *Western Sydney University, Parramatta South Campus Proposed Temporary Car Park – Western Study Area Historical Archaeological Assessment, Impact Assessment and Research Design*. Prepared for Western Sydney University

<sup>44</sup> Ibid

<sup>45</sup> Ibid

<sup>46</sup> Ibid



Figure 4-14: Looking east along the top of the first terrace. Geotechnical test pit TP15 is visible on the left. Source: Adapted from Figure 4.2 in AMBS Ecology & Heritage, 2024, Western Sydney University, Parramatta South Campus Proposed Temporary Car Park – Eastern Study Area Historical Archaeological Assessment, Impact Assessment and Research Design.



Figure 4-15: Modern satellite image showing semi-circular lines of brown grass (arrowed) that appear to match the alignment of the ha-ha from SIX Maps. Source: Adapted from Figure 4.3 in AMBS Ecology & Heritage, 2024, Western Sydney University, Parramatta South Campus Proposed Temporary Car Park – Eastern Study Area Historical Archaeological Assessment, Impact Assessment and Research Design

The proposed western car park location is located in the southeast quadrant of the oval, with the northern end of the location having a salient mound (Figure 4-16) that was most likely a result of the previous earthworks debris from the establishment of the existing P1 Car Park, Victoria Road widening and the creation of the Bridge St overpass.<sup>47</sup> There are sandstone block walls that function to retain the ground and provide informal seating in parts of the northern side of the mound, with the ground flattening out to the south and west of the mound moving towards the bus shelter.<sup>48</sup> The mound has a salient slope down towards the oval; the oval is raised up approximately 0.5m (Figure 4-17).<sup>49</sup> Mature trees are present along Fifth Street from Bridge Street to the southwest, with younger trees planted between the mature trees and the bus shelter.<sup>50</sup>



Figure 4-16: The southern section of the prominent mound where the western car park will be located. Geotechnical test pits TP9 and TP7 are visible in the background and middle right respectively. Source: Adapted from Figure 4.1 in AMBS Ecology & Heritage, 2024, Western Sydney University, Parramatta South Campus Proposed Temporary Car Park – Western Study Area Historical Archaeological Assessment, Impact Assessment and Research Design.

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<sup>47</sup> AMBS Ecology & Heritage, 2024, *Western Sydney University, Parramatta South Campus Proposed Temporary Car Park – Western Study Area Historical Archaeological Assessment, Impact Assessment and Research Design*. Prepared for Western Sydney University

<sup>48</sup> Ibid

<sup>49</sup> Ibid

<sup>50</sup> Ibid



Figure 4-17: View east across the oval and grassed area where the western car park will be located (dashed red). The mature Jacaranda trees along Fifth Street are visible in the background, the prominent mound is arrowed red, the gentle slope down to the north and raised edge of the oval are arrowed blue. Source: Adapted from Figure 4.2 in AMBS Ecology & Heritage, 2024, Western Sydney University, Parramatta South Campus Proposed Temporary Car Park – Western Study Area Historical Archaeological Assessment, Impact Assessment and Research Design.

## 4.2. Study area context

The project site is approximately 12,150m<sup>2</sup> 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.

## 4.3. View corridors

The principal view corridors towards the site are viewed when travelling east and west along Victoria Road and when looking north along Fifth Street.

There are secondary view corridors towards the site that are viewed when travelling along Railway Street looking West at the entry of the university.

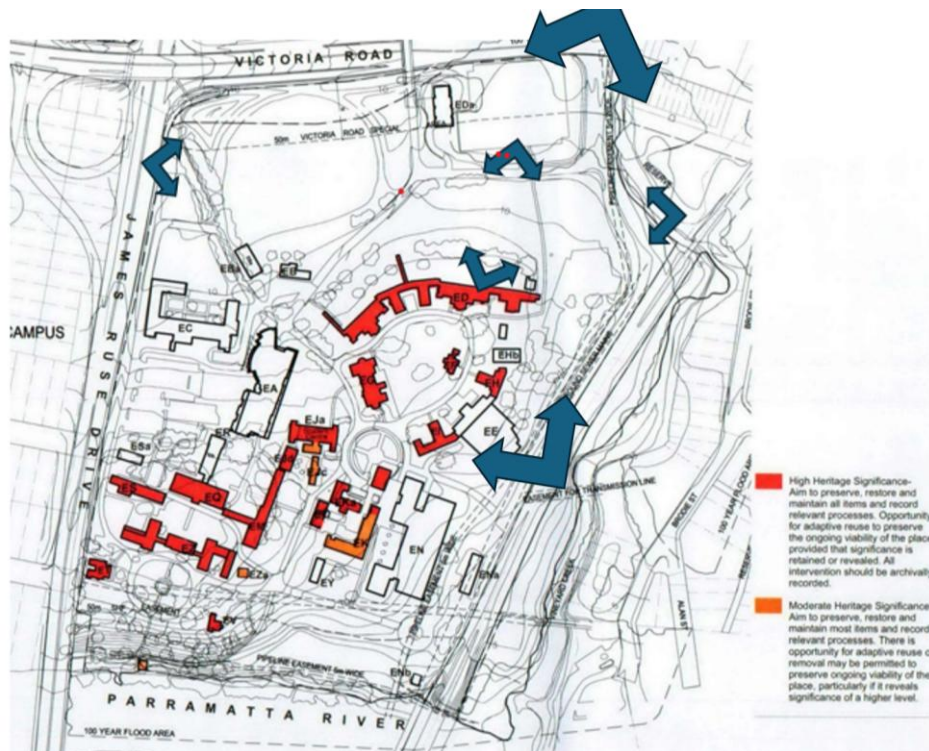


Figure 4-183: Significant view lines to the study area. Source: Conybeare Morrison CMP 2008, annotated by Curio Projects, 2023



Figure 4-14: Looking West towards the oval. Source: Google Maps



Figure 4-15: Looking South from Fifth street towards the school of Humanities and Communication Arts. Source: Google Maps.



Figure 4-16: Looking South from near Victoria Road towards the Carpark (subject site). Source: Google Maps.



Figure 4-17: Looking West towards the Carpark (subject site) from Railway Street. Source: Google Maps.



Figure 4-18: Looking West from near Railway Street towards the Carpark (subject site). Source: Google Maps.

# 5 Heritage Significance

## 4. Heritage Significance

### 4.1. Methodology

The assessment of significance is based on the principles of the *Burra Charter* (Australia ICOMOS Incorporated, 2013); the *Interpretation and Intangible Cultural Heritage and Place Practice Notes* (Australia ICOMOS Incorporated, 2017); and the 2001 *Assessing Heritage Significance: A NSW Heritage Manual Update* – prepared by the former Heritage Branch, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.

The *Assessing Heritage Significance: A NSW Heritage Manual Update* is used to compare the significance of a place with the NSW Heritage assessment criteria, in which a place can meet more than one criterion. Such processes determine the level of significance of a place – either for the local government area, for the State of NSW or the broader Australian community. It results in a succinct statement of heritage significance.

For the assessment of local or State significance of an item, the NSW Heritage Guidelines indicate that the item must meet one or more of the criteria as outlined in Table .

Table 5.1: NSW Guidelines for Assessing Heritage Significance

| Criterion     | Significance   | Status                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Criterion (a) | Historical     | An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW cultural or natural history (or in the cultural or natural history of the local area).                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Criterion (b) | Associative    | An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).                                                                                                           |
| Criterion (c) | Aesthetic      | An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Criterion (d) | Social         | An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.                                                                                                                                                           |
| Criterion (e) | Scientific     | An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).                                                                                                                                        |
| Criterion (f) | Rarity         | An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Criterion (g) | Representative | An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cultural or natural places; or Cultural or natural environments.</li><li>• (or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments).</li></ul> |

## 4.1. Summary of Statutory Heritage Listings

The subject site (171 Victoria Road Parramatta 2150):

- Is listed as a heritage item "WSU Parramatta Campus, formerly Rydalmere Hospital and Female Orphan School" by Schedule 5, Part 1 of the Sydney LEP 2012.
- Is not located within a Heritage Conservation Area as defined by Schedule 5, Part 2 of the Sydney LEP 2012.
- Is listed on the State Heritage Register "WSU Parramatta Campus, formerly Rydalmere Hospital and Female Orphan School Rydalmere Hospital Precinct (former)" under the NSW Heritage Act 1977.

## 4.2. Heritage Significance of the subject site

### 4.2.1. 'Rydalmere Hospital Precinct (former)' SHR No. 00749

As detailed within Section 2 of this report, the site is listed as a State Heritage Item (SHR No.00749) and known as the 'Rydalmere Hospital Precinct (former)' under the NSW Heritage Act 1977. The site is also listed within Schedule 5, Part 1 of the Parramatta LEP 2023 as 'WSU Parramatta Campus, formerly Rydalmere Hospital and Female Orphan School' (Heritage Item No.1661, comprising lots 100 and 101 DP 816829).

The Rydalmere Hospital Precinct (former) was constructed between 1813 and 1940, with contributions to its design by Mrs Macquarie, Francis Greenway and Walter Liberty Vernon. The State Heritage Register provides the following description of the item:

*The Rydalmere Hospital area is bounded by Victoria Road to the north, James Ruse Drive to the west, Vineyard Creek to the east and Parramatta River to the South. This area contains a significant number of buildings, landscape features, archaeological sites, natural areas, gardens and vistas. Note that the State Heritage Register boundary excludes the railway corridor.*

*Original Orphanage/hospital:*

*The original Orphanage hospital from the 1860s was built as a two storey domestic style building with two storey verandahs on three elevations. Verandahs later enclosed and interiors gutted to form single open spaces.*

*A fine symmetrically balanced composition with projecting central bay capped by a simple triangular pediment. It was designed in Colonial Georgian style and constructed in face sandstock brickwork with sandstone window sills, quoins and string courses. When viewed from the south the principal elevation, which faces towards the Parramatta River is flanked with Palladian style two storey pavilions connected to the central building by two storey wings.*

*Pavilions:*

*The pavilions, which stand forward of the centre, were originally almost square in plan but subsequently extended to the north in at least two different stages. Their early hipped roofs were replaced by brickwork gables and projecting barges.*

*Mortuary:*

*The Mortuary is a fine example of the Federation Free Style. It has a simple rectangular plan and hipped, ventilated slate roof which is topped by a finely detailed zinc lantern with an oriental character.*

*Fmr. Head Master's Residence:*

*The former Head Master's Residence is a large two storey Victorian house with extended rear additions containing service rooms.*

*Former Chief Attendant's Cottage:*

*The former Chief Attendant's Cottage is a small single storey house. It is clad in horizontal timber weatherboards and has a terra cotta tile roof.*

*Boatshed:*

*The boatshed is a small single storey timber framed building. It is notable for the external timber stud framing and diagonal bracing supporting a gabled roof with slate covering. (Schwager Brooks and Partners 1994: 59-86)*

*Dept of Health s170 register lists: building1 (Female orphan school), Building 2, 4, 5, 6, 12, 14, 18, 20, 21, chief attendant's cottage, building 34, 36, 38, 47, 58, 59, 66, 73, 74, 75, 76, 79, 82, 89, 92, 93, 97, 100, 105, 108, 114, 119, and landscape as state significant.*

The State Heritage Register provides the following Assessment of Significance for the 'Rydalmere Hospital Precinct (former)' (SHR No.00749), and as extracted from Schwager Brooks and Partners 120:1994):

Table 5.2: Assessment of Significance for 'Rydalmere Hospital Precinct (former)' SHR No. 00749

| <b>Criterion</b>     | <b>Significance</b> | <b>Status</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Criterion (a)</b> | Historical          | <i>It has been almost continually occupied since the early years of European settlement, initially by farming activities, but more importantly, by successive public welfare institutions for the care and management of disadvantaged members of society. It was the first purpose built orphanage in Australia and first combined orphanage to be managed by the state. The original central block is the oldest three storey building in Australia. The actual establishment of the orphanage at Rydalmere is associated with the governorship and development policies of Lachlan Macquarie, with his wife who is thought to have provided the design and with Samuel Marsden who superintended the construction. (Schwager Brooks and Partners 118:1994)</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Criterion (c)</b> | Aesthetic           | <i>It is a fine but complex collection of 19th and 20th century institutional buildings set in extensive, landscaped grounds above the Parramatta River. The central two and three storey buildings of the orphanage are a fine example of Old Colonial Georgian architectural design. The extant south elevation, with the symmetrical pavilions, retains a particular clarity of architectural composition, despite subsequent alterations and additions. The same elevation retains a largely uninterrupted visual relationship with the river, sufficient to demonstrate the aesthetic intentions of the original decision to site the orphanage on Arthurs Hill, facing towards the river valley and the contemporary settlement at Parramatta. Surviving external forms of many of the buildings retain sufficient clarity to demonstrate a range of important 19th and early 20th century architectural styles including Old Colonial Georgian, Victorian Regency, Federation Arts and Crafts and Federation Free Style. Remnant flora and site works from successive periods now combine to create a rich and varied landscape. (Schwager Brooks and Partners 118-119:1994)</i> |
| <b>Criterion (d)</b> | Social              | <i>The history of the orphanage illustrates the evolution of interrelationships between private, ecclesiastic and state responsibilities for social welfare and education. The closure of the orphanage in 1888 reflected developing public policies to foster orphaned children into the community. The initial adaptations made to the old orphan school buildings to accommodate the Hospital for the Insane in the late 1880's, represented one of the last</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

| Criterion            | Significance   | Status                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                      |                | <i>examples of a long standing institutional approach in the care of the mentally ill, that of incarceration rather than hospitalisation. The marked changes of approach to the care of the insane, particularly the reduction in personal confinement, which took place after 1895, is clearly illustrated in the development of buildings and landscape, some of which took place within the Orphan School Precinct. (Schwager Brooks and Partners 119:1994).</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Criterion (e)</b> | Scientific     | <i>For the potential to reveal physical evidence on Aboriginal utilisation of the resources of the region. For the potential to reveal physical evidence on the agricultural aspects of early European settlement in the region. For the potential to reveal physical evidence of former buildings and other structures, living conditions and building utilisation, patterns of land use, planting and pasturage, drainage and water supply systems and other aspects of long term institutional use. For the potential to demonstrate building design, construction and repair techniques throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, particularly from the early decades of the 19th century. For the potential to interpret the role of the Parramatta River as a major form of inland transport and communication in the early decades of European settlement. (Schwager Brooks and Partners 120:1994)</i> |
| <b>Criterion (f)</b> | Rarity         | <i>The original, central block of the orphan school is the oldest three storey building in Australia. (Schwager Brooks and Partners 118:1994)</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Criterion (g)</b> | Representative | <i>As the first purpose built orphan school in the Colony, it illustrates a milestone in the establishment of national social welfare and education policies. (Schwager Brooks and Partners 121:1994)</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

The State Heritage Register provides the following Statement of Significance for the 'Rydalmere Hospital Precinct (former)' (SHR No.00749).

*The Female Orphan School Precinct as a component of the former Rydalmere Hospital is of outstanding cultural significance, primarily for its continued use and development, between 1813 and 1989 as a public welfare institution for the care and management of the disadvantaged.*

*As the first purpose built orphan school in the colony, it illustrates a milestone in the establishment of national social welfare and education policies.*

*The surviving original buildings, constructed between 1813 and 1818, provide evidence of the development policies of Governor Macquarie and illustrates the transfer of 18th century British architectural pretensions into the design and siting of functional buildings in New South Wales. The extant central block is the oldest three storey building in Australia. (Source)*

*The site as a whole, and particularly the Orphan School precinct, has outstanding historical and social significance because of its continuous occupation as an institution since 1814. The original complex and its garden setting have outstanding rarity value. Its landscape is of exceptional significance for its development as a Colonial institution sited within the cultural landscape of the Parramatta River valley and influenced by Mrs Macquarie together with the continuing recognition of the heritage values of the place up to the present (Schwager Brooks, 1994)*

*The structure of the built and natural fabric of the place has been conserved despite the constant adaptation by institutional uses and alienation of its peripheral lands. As a complex of parkland landscape character with gardens, built form and remnant indigenous vegetation it demonstrates the evolution of different attitudes towards institutional care in NSW. The groundworks design and siting of the buildings is associated*

with Mrs Macquarie, Reverend Samuel Marsden, Francis Greenway and subsequent Colonial and Government Architects (particularly Walter Liberty Vernon) and individuals associated with health care such as Frederick Norton Manning and Dr Greenup (excerpt from Tanner Architects, 2005).

The State Heritage Register also describes the following buildings as being listed on the Western Sydney University Section 170 Register (former Department of Health register):

*'Building 1 (Female orphan school), Building 2, 4, 5, 6, 12, 14, 18, 20, 21, chief attendant's cottage, building 34, 36, 38, 47, 58, 59, 66, 73, 74, 75, 76, 79, 82, 89, 92, 93, 97, 100, 105, 108, 114, 119, and landscape as state significant.'*

Of the above buildings, the following table (Table 5.3) details the buildings which are located within the vicinity of the study area and contribute to its visual setting and context. Details of their grading of significance and statements of significance are also provided below, as described with the CMP (Conybeare Morisson International 2008):<sup>51</sup> A visual reference is provided in Figure 5.1 below.

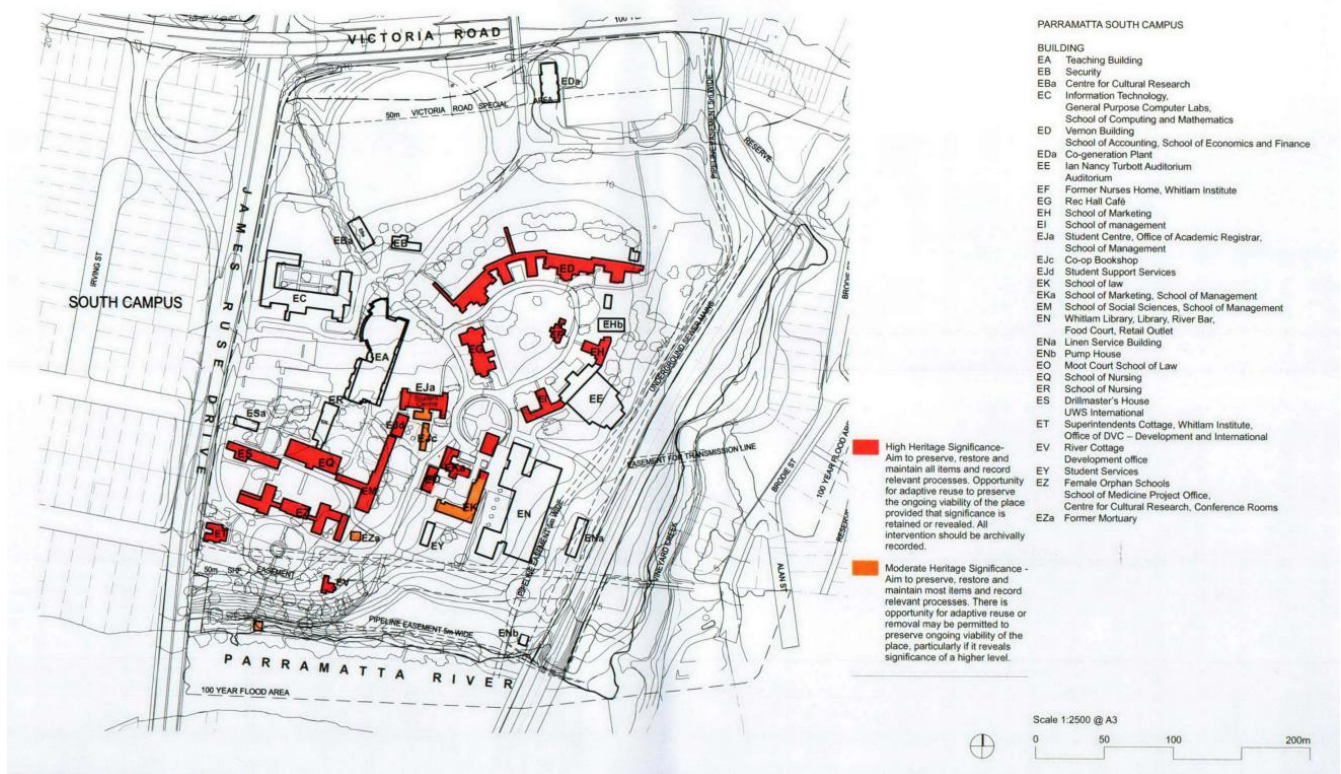


Figure 5.1: Extract of the 'Heritage Significance of Built Assets' plan as cited within CMP prepared by Conybeare Morisson International 2008.

Source: Conybeare Morisson International 2008, p.40

<sup>51</sup> Conybeare Morisson International, CMP April 2008, p. 42-43

### 4.3. Buildings of significance within the vicinity of the Study Area

Table 5.3 Buildings of significance within the study area

| Item name and number                                                                         | Significance Grading | Statement of Significance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Vernon Building ED - 4730012,<br>Former Wards 13-16 + Sleepouts                              | High                 | <i>A finely crafted Federation Arts and Crafts long range former Wards 13-16 building, erected in c. 1900 by the Public Works Department under the direction of Walter Liberty Vernon (1846-1914) Government Architect from 1890-1911. The building illustrates the layout, detailing and the evolving reforms in the care of the mentally ill at the turn of the twentieth century. Rydalmere Hospital for the Insane is the only example in New South Wales that combined outward facing 'airing courts' with a consciously designed inwardly orientated Village Green.</i> |
| College of Business EF - 4730014<br>School of Computing and Maths<br>Former Nurses Residence | High                 | <i>A timber cottage erected in 1893 to provide accommodation for the nurses of the Parramatta Hospital for the Insane. The building with extensions, remained nurse's accommodation for 80 years and played a pivotal role in the operation of the psychiatric hospital.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Rec Hall, Cafe EG - 4730015<br>Recreational Hall                                             | High                 | <i>The Recreational Hall, erected in 1898 as the recreational heart of the Rydalmere Hospital for the Insane, is one of the few buildings on the site that retains its original use as part of the University of Western Sydney. The brick and sandstone trimmed building retains much of its internal detailing intact including fine stained glass windows and proscenium.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| School of Marketing EH - 4730016<br>Former Ward 11                                           | High                 | <i>A c.1900 restrained Federation, Rydalmere Hospital for the Insane ward building that contributes to the composition on the ridge line by providing part of the eastern enclosure to the Village Green.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| School of Management EI - 4730017<br>Former Ward 10                                          | High                 | <i>A restrained Federation, Rydalmere Hospital for the Insane ward building that contributes to the composition along the ridge line by providing part of the southeastern enclosure to the Village Green.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

| Item name and number                                                                                               | Significance Grading | Statement of Significance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Building Em - 4730023<br>Former 'infirmary and laundry building'                                                   | High                 | <p>The southern section of EM, the 1854 Protestant School's Infirmary, a Victorian Georgian two storey sand-stock brick building, signifies the expansion of facilities required to the site after the arrival of boys to the orphanage in 1850. With the Drillmaster's House, erected at the same period, the Infirmary balanced and complemented the design composition to the north of the Female Orphan School building. The integrity of the Infirmary is degraded due to extensive alteration both internally and externally.</p> <p>The northern section of EM, a well constructed sandstock brick with sandstone trim Victorian pavilion erected in 1870 as a laundry for the Protestant Orphan School, is one of the few remaining structures that represent the 1870s extensive building program to upgrade the orphan school facilities. It was modified to serve as an open ward as part of the adaptation to the site for the Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital in c. 1899.</p> <p>The central pavilion and western arm of EM, erected in 1899 as for the Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital connected in a sympathetic manner the Infirmary on the south to the former laundry on the north. The building wraps around a courtyard setting on the west, reflecting the influence of Dr F N Manning (1839-1903), Inspector General of Insane between 1876 and 1898, who promoted the new theories for the treatment of the mentally ill in the design of the buildings'</p> |
| Building EV - 4730028<br>'Former Chief Attendant's Cottage'<br>(River Cottage/Office of Development)               | High                 | <p>'A relatively intact 1895 Federation Queen Anne style weatherboard single storey cottage that was continuously used as a residence for 91 years. Erected as a residence for the chief attendant of the Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital, the cottage signifies a time of expansion of the hospital facilities with the arrival of first female patients. It was part of the major built and landscaping works to the north of the Female Orphan School at this time.'</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Building Ez Main – 4730029<br>Female Orphan School<br>(School of Medicine/Conference Centre for Cultural Research) | High                 | <p>The Female Orphan School/, established between 1813 and 1818, is of cultural significance at a national level for its important role in the development of the Australian colony. It illustrates a milestone in the establishment of national social welfare and education policies, and is significant for its associations with the development policies of Governor Macquarie and Mrs Macquarie, patrons of the school.</p> <p>The main building is substantially intact and is the earliest example of Palladian composition and of the Colonial Georgian style in Australia. It is the oldest surviving three storey brick building in Australia.</p> <p>The building currently houses the Whitlam Institute which commemorates the life and work of E G Whitlam (1916-) Prime Minister of Australia 1972-1975 and pursues the causes he championed including giving a voice and resources to the people of Western Sydney.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

#### 4.3.1. Landscape significance

In addition to the built assets listed above, the landscape is recognised as having cultural significance. The University of Western Sydney Parramatta Campus Rydalmere: Landscape Management Plan, prepared by CAB Consulting Pty Ltd & The Tree School, 2003 provides the following Statement of Significance for the cultural landscape.<sup>52</sup>

*The University of Western Sydney Parramatta Campus, Rydalmere, occupies the site of part of the former Surgeon Arndell's land grant and farm, former Female Orphan School, former Protestant Orphan School, former Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital and is part of the territory of the Burramatagal people. It is of exceptional significance for its development as a Colonial institution sited within the cultural landscape of the Parramatta River valley and influenced by Mrs Macquarie together with the continuing recognition of the heritage values of the place up to the present. The structure of the built and natural fabric of the place has been conserved despite the constant adaptation by institutional uses and alienation of its peripheral lands. As a complex of parkland landscape character with gardens, built form and remnant indigenous vegetation it demonstrates the evolution of different attitudes toward institutional care in NSW. The groundworks design and siting of the buildings is associated with Mrs Macquarie, Samuel Marsden, Francis Greenway and subsequent Colonial and Government Architects (particularly Walter Liberty Vernon) and individuals associated with health care such as Frederick Norton Manning and Dr. Greenup.*

The CMP (Conybeare Morrison International 2008) also identifies the landscaped areas and trees of high or moderate significance within the site. The trees and landscapes are shown with Figure 5.2 below and identify the landscape areas of significance. Immediately adjacent to the subject site to the west the oval and surrounding trees are identified as having 'high significance'. Immediately to the south of the subject site there are trees identified as having 'moderate significance'.

To the south of the subject site the area surrounding building EG, ED, EF, EI, and EH is identified as having 'high' significance. To the east of the site, Vineyard creek is identified as having 'moderate' significance.

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<sup>52</sup> CAB Consulting Pty Ltd & The Tree School 2003, p. 14

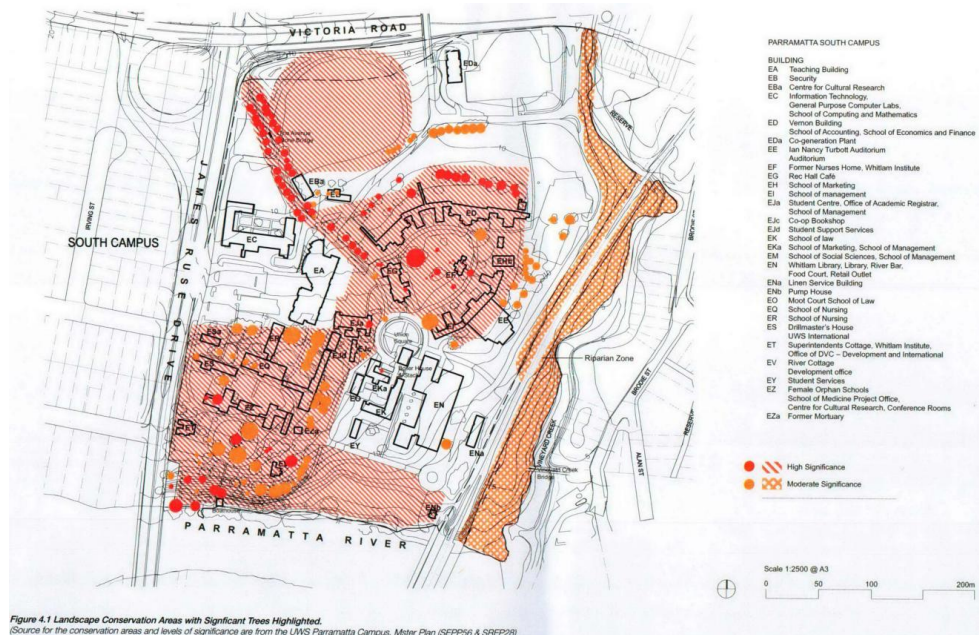


Figure 4.1 Landscape Conservation Areas with Significant Trees Highlighted.  
(Source for the conservation areas and levels of significance are from the UWS Parramatta Campus, Meter Plan (SEPP56 & SEPP28))

Figure 5.2: Extract of the 'Landscape Conservation Areas with Significant Trees Highlighted' plan, as cited within CMP prepared by Conybeare Morisson International 2008, showing shaded areas and trees within the vicinity of Building EN (library)  
Source: Conybeare Morisson International 2008, p.38

#### 4.3.2. Significant view lines

The CMP identifies a number of significant view lines to and from the State heritage listed 'Rydalmere Hospital Precinct' (former), as well as from within the item. Refer to Figure 5.2 below.

Significant view lines extend from the northeastern corner of the site towards building ED. This view is identified in figure 5.2 as view 8 "View from Victoria Road Campus entrance". The subject site is partially visible in this view.



Figure 3.1 Landscape Types, Significant Views and location of former Ha-Ha Walls.  
(Source for the assessment of landscape is CAB Consulting Pty Ltd & The Tree School, Landscape Management Plan, 2003)

Figure 5.3: Extract of the 'Landscape Types, Significant views as cited within CMP prepared by Conybeare Morisson International 2008, showing significant view lines. Source: Conybeare Morisson International 2008.

## 6. Proposed Works

## 6. Proposed works

### 6.1.1. Summary of Proposed works

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.

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 the following facilities:
  - Outdoor amphitheatre,
  - Cinema and lecture theatre,
  - Artist studios and gallery exhibition space.
  - Teaching workspaces and general study areas,
  - Library and other educational research spaces,
  - Multi-functional recreational sports court, with ancillary amenities, and
  - Astronomy garden.
- Construction of hardstand paving and line marking to accommodate new parking areas, including:
  - 13 spaces on the existing P1 car park site, adjacent to the new dedicated arrival zone to the proposed ICoE,
  - 107 spaces proposed in new western car park to the west of Bridge Street, adjacent to the existing oval, and
  - 181 spaces proposed in new eastern car park on the southern side of Fifth Street, adjacent to the new ICoE.
- Landscaping works to provide outdoor educational and recreational spaces.

This report responds to the relevant SSD-64916225 Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirement (SEARs), as well as addresses updated Amending SSD cumulative impacts associated with the revised car park scope.

The following figures are extracted from the architectural drawing set and illustrate the proposed works.

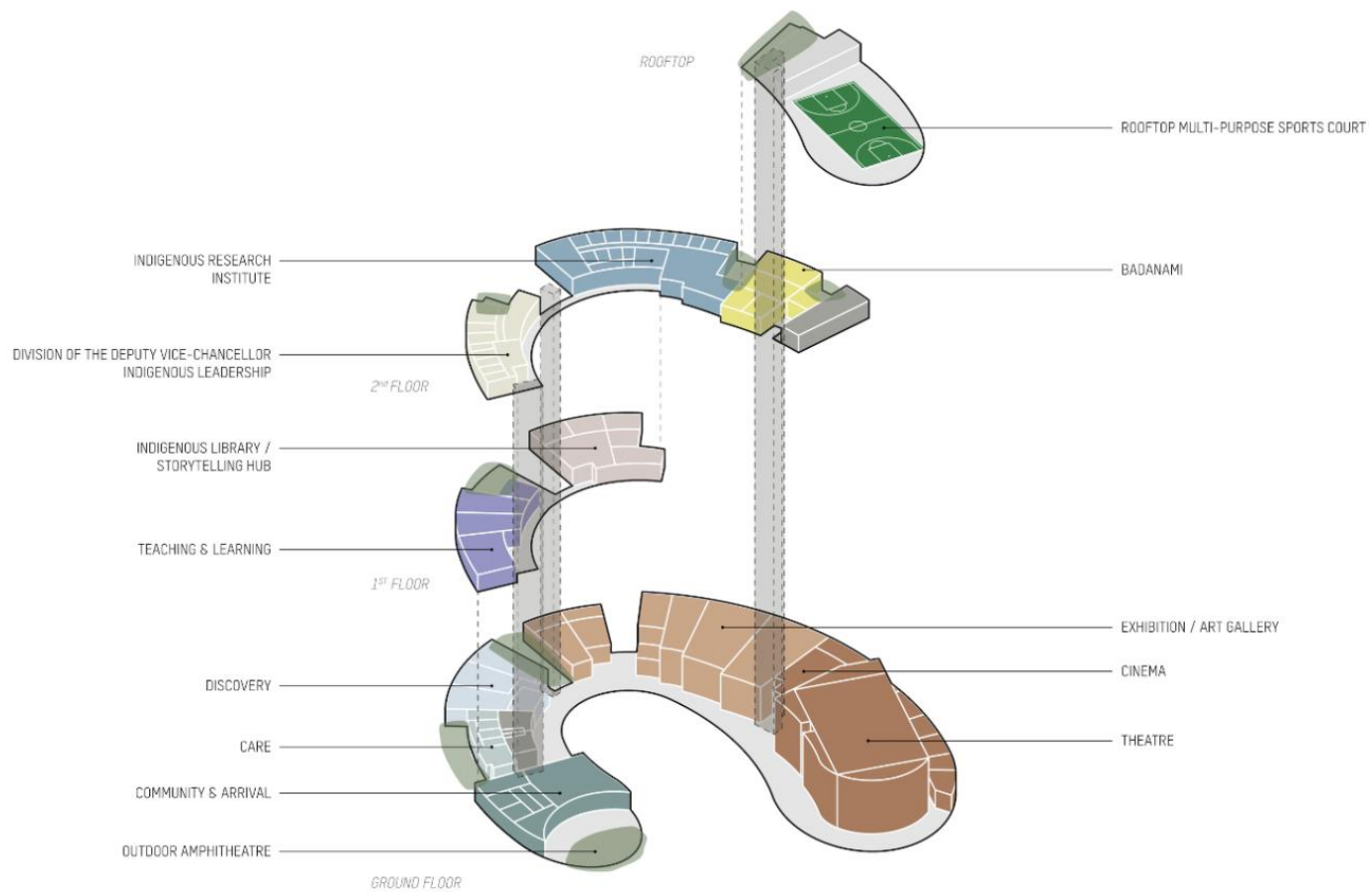


Figure 6-2: Axonometric diagram of the proposal. Source: Jackson Clements Burrows Architects

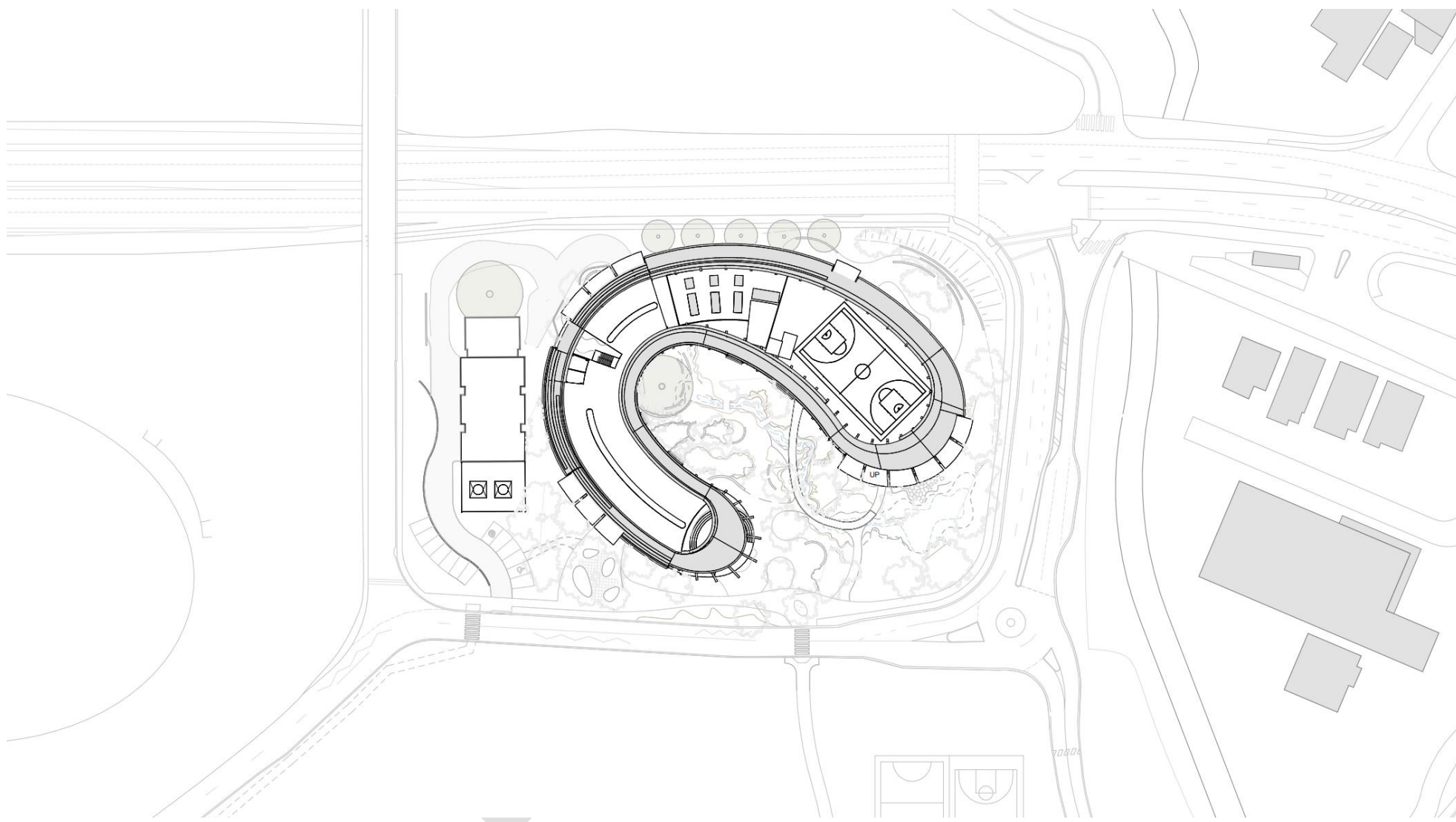


Figure 6-2: Proposed site plan. Source: Jackson Clements Burrows Architects



Figure 6-3: Aerial view of the proposed building. Source: Jackson Clements Burrows Architects



Figure 6.-4: Looking North towards the proposed building from the main campus. Source: Jackson Clements Burrows Architects



Figure 6-5: Looking North towards the proposed building from near Railway Street. Source: Jackson Clements Burrows Architects



Figure 6-6: Site plan indicating the proposed location of the 2 carparks. Source: TTW engineering.

### 6.1.2. Finishes and Materials

- Clay Shingle
- Clay shingle hit and miss pattern.
- Mass timber
- Clear glazing
- Exposed Aggregate concrete.
- Metal



Figure 6-7: Finishes and Materials Palette. Source: Jackson Clements Burrows Architects

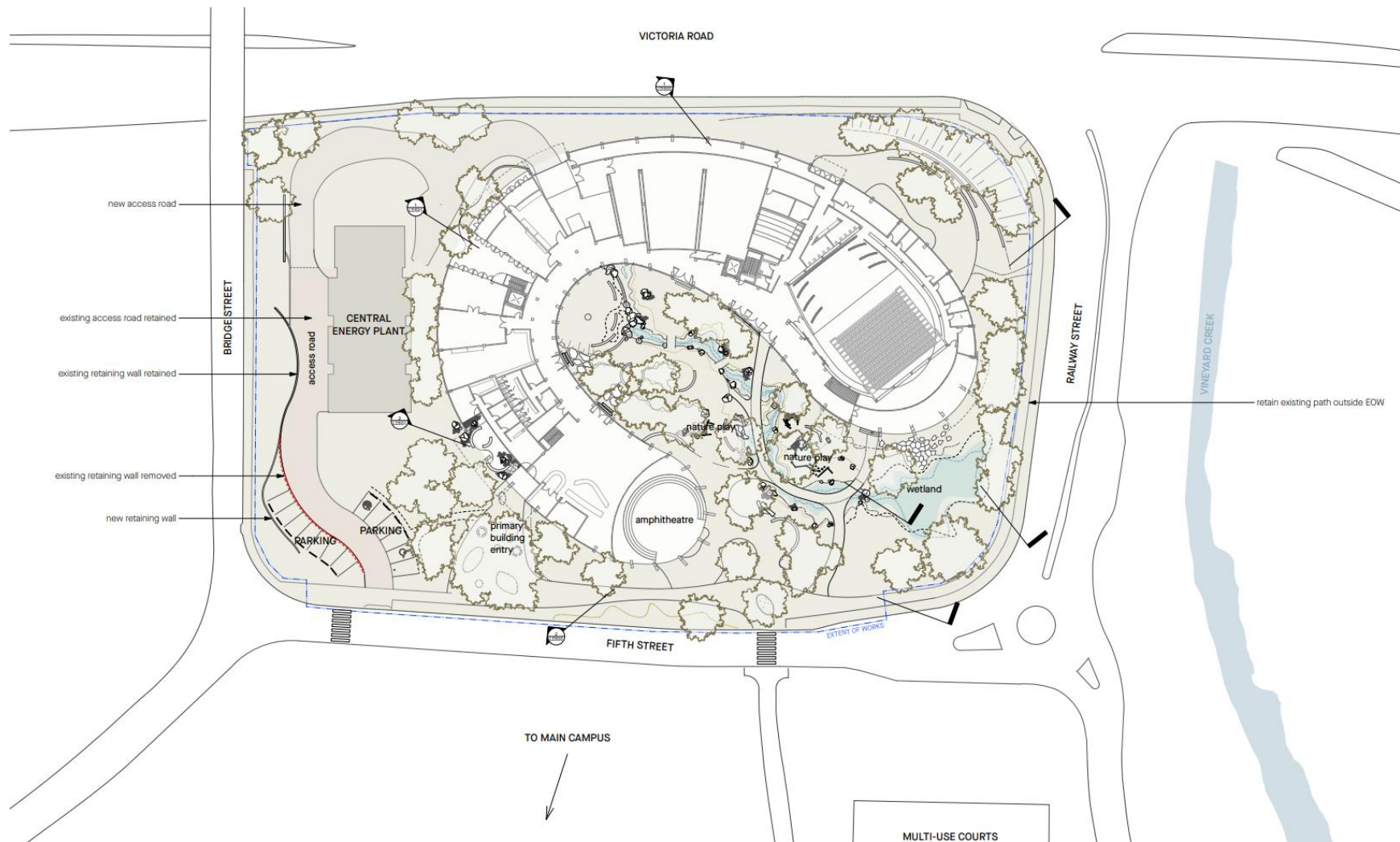


Figure 6-8: Proposed landscape plan. Source: Jane Irwin Landscape Architects

## 7. Assessment of Heritage Impact

## 7. Assessment of Heritage Impact

The following assessment of heritage impact relates to the full scope of works and landscaping, as outlined in Section 6. The proposal has been assessed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Parramatta LEP 2023, relevant objectives and controls outlined within the Parramatta DCP 2023, in accordance with the NSW Heritage Office guidelines and existing management policies for the conservation of the site as outlined within the Conservation Management Plan and Landscape Management Plan.

### 7.1.1. Heritage Impact on 'Rydalmere Hospital Precinct (former)' SHR No. 00749)

- The proposed development will have no physical impact on significant heritage fabric of the heritage item 'Rydalmere Hospital Precinct (former)'. The proposed building is to be built within an area currently occupied by a car park.
- The proposed development will replace the existing car park at the site and provide a usable and functional building within the campus boundary which will provide a positive contribution to the university. It will have a positive heritage impact as it will provide new amenities and facilities and will serve as a hub for celebrating Indigenous cultural heritage.
- The proposed design of the building and its associated landscaping works will enhance the setting of significant precinct and the heritage buildings within. The design encompasses a curved clay façade and an ample amount of native vegetation which will be clearly read as contemporary and distinguishable from the nearby heritage buildings. The design will contribute positively to the character and significance of the site. It has been developed with indigenous knowledge and has been influenced by the ecological history of the landscape. The proposal will enhance the aesthetic quality of the site and will communicate the indigenous culture and history of the site through its architecture. The proposal will have a positive visual impact on the historical context and the setting of the significant buildings within the site.
- The selected design was the outcome of a competitive design process and demonstrates design excellence. The design was completed by a team of architects: Sarah Lynn Rees, Jackson Clements Burrows, Peter Stutchbury Architecture, Jane Irwin Landscape Architecture, Uncle Dean Kelly, Hill Talis Architecture and Flux Consultant.
- The site of the proposed ICoE building is located outside of significant landscape conservation areas as identified within the Conybeare Morrison CMP 2008 which lie to the south (Institutional Complex Conservation Area 1) and to the west (Cricket Ground and Venues, Conservation Area 2) Refer to Figure 5-2. The new building will have no physical impact on significant landscape conservation areas.
- The site of the ICoE building is substantially separated by approximately 120 meters from the closest significant heritage building at the site, (Vernon Building ED). This is a significant amount of separation which will ensure there is no impact on interpreting and retaining the items heritage significance.

- The proposed Indigenous Center of Excellence and associated landscaping will provide screening from road infrastructure and road noise and will enhance the setting of the nearby heritage buildings within the precinct.

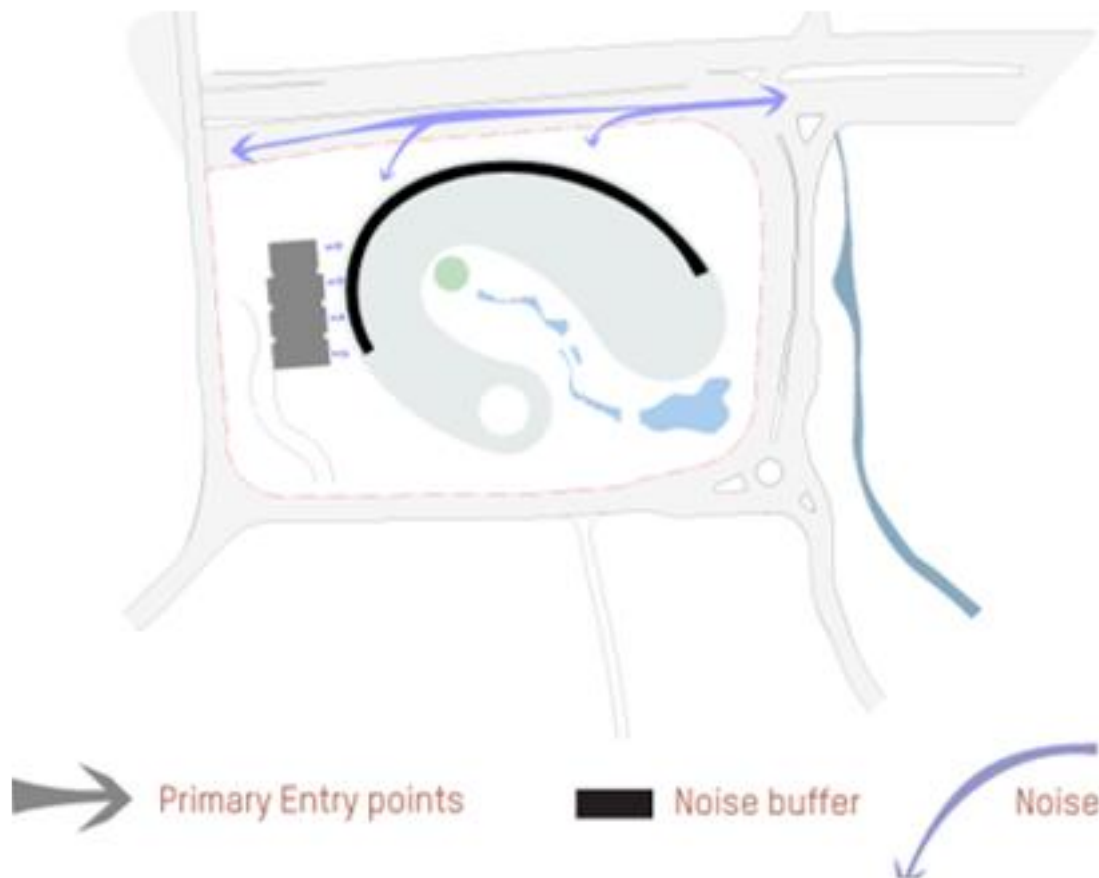


Figure 7.1: Diagram indicating the noise buffer which will result from the proposed development.

- The existing car park does not include any planting or vegetation. The proposed development includes extensive landscaping which will integrate various native planting, which will soften the building's appearance and complement the visual setting of the nearby significant heritage buildings located within the university site.
- The proposed building will have no adverse impact on view corridors towards significant buildings located within the site. See Figure 5.3. The new building will not encroach on their curtilage or immediate setting and will complement their wider setting within the university landscape. The proposed building will not obstruct views to significant items which are principally appreciated when viewed from Victoria Road campus entrance south or from within the campus.
- The design, form massing and scale of the proposed development is in keeping with the contemporary university buildings located within the site which are located within closer proximity to the significant heritage buildings. The proposal will have less of a visual impact on the heritage buildings as they are located an even further distance from the significant buildings at the site.
- The proposed ICoE development is a 3-storey building which retains a human scale and has been designed to respond to the scale of development within its immediate context. Building EA and

EB are located closer to significant heritage buildings at the site and are 4 storeys in height. The scale of the proposed building is compatible with the existing contemporary building within the university precinct and will not overwhelm or detract from the setting of the significant heritage buildings within its vicinity.

- Internal views along existing corridors within the precinct will be conserved and enhanced through improved access links, introduction of new complementary and interpretative landscaping, and signage. New opportunities for views towards the historic precinct (looking south) from the subject site (car park) will also be created.
- The proposal will improve the visual character of the site by increasing vegetation and creating separation between significant buildings at the site and the arterial roadway, Victoria Road. This will have a positive impact on the heritage significance of the site by improving the visual and aesthetic character of the overall site.
- The proposed ICoE building material palette employs light colours and natural materials, such as clay and timber are a contemporary interpretation of the subject sites historic natural environmental context and will relate directly to materials which are connected to country and relate to the indigenous history of the site. Overall, this approach to materials reflects a deep consideration for ecological, cultural, and aesthetic factors, resulting in a building that is not only sustainable but also deeply rooted in its context.
- The two areas proposed for carparking will also be located within the boundary of this State Heritage listed precinct which contains a layered history of institutional use. The proposal will have a low physical impact on the significance of the site. The works involve surface works only and will not result in any physical alterations to the existing heritage buildings within the study area, its structures or significant landscape elements. Furthermore, the proposed western carpark will occupy a portion of the oval surface level which was previously disturbed and formally used for the purposes of a car park (c.2009). For further discussion refer to Section 7.4 below.

### **7.1.2. Summary of impacts on significant views**

The proposal will not interfere or obstruct significant views identified within the site outlined within CMP 2008. The significant views within the site which are nearest to the site of the proposed building are as follows.

- *View 4 – view along former road entrance, The Avenue.*
- *View 7 – Views from Victoria Road.*
- *View 8 – View from Victoria Road campus entrance.*



Figure 7-2: Significant views as cited within CMP prepared by Conybeare Morisson International 2008, showing significant view lines. Source: Conybeare Morisson International 2008.

There will be no impact on views 4, 7 or 8, which are the significant views closely located to the subject site. Principal view corridors towards the heritage item and individual significant buildings within the site will not be obstructed or overwhelmed by the proposal due to its location (corner of Victoria Road and Railway Street), as well as its high-quality design and materiality. The proposed landscaping will also enhance the setting and character of the precinct.

This assessment is further supported by the Visual Impact Assessment (VIA), prepared by Ethos Urban, dated 3 May 2024, which demonstrates the degree of impact through the assessment of 'existing' and 'likely future' views from key viewpoints.

Views looking south across the oval and Cricket Ground & Venues (Conservation Area 2) from Victoria Road will be retained and conserved. The new ICoE building will be noticeable within views looking south-east across the oval (from James Rouse Drive), however the overall visual impact to longer views will be low (refer to Figure 7.3). The new building will be highly visible within views looking south-west and north-east from the Victoria Road campus entrance, and towards the significant Vernon Building (Building ED), however, views towards the historic precinct from further south along Railway Street will be conserved and the building's proposed materiality and landscaping will soften and complement its historic setting (refer to figures 7.3 and 7.4).

It is noted that the 'likely future views' provided within the VIA do not illustrate the proposed materiality for the new building, or the proposed landscaping within its curtilage, and these elements will have a positive impact on the setting of the historic site and all views from its primary vantage points.

The proposed new car parking areas immediately south and south west of the new ICoE building will be constructed on-grade. The new parking areas will not permanently intervene or overwhelm significant view lines looking in a northern or southern direction across the northern portion of the precinct. The temporary nature and edge siting of the two carparking areas aligns with CMP guidance, resulting in neutral to minor visual impacts that are fully reversible. Further discussion is provided below in Section 7.4.



Figure 7-3. Artist's impression looking west along Victoria Road at intersection with Railway Street. Source: JCD as cited within Ethos Urban 2024.



Figure 7-4 Likely future view from Yallamundi Light Rail Station. Source: Virtual Ideas as cited within Ethos Urban 2024.



Figure 7-5 Likely future view from Yallamundi Light Rail Station. Source: Virtual Ideas as cited within Ethos Urban 2024.

## 7.2. Heritage impact on heritage items within the immediate vicinity

### 'Wetlands' (Item No. I011 City of Parramatta LEP 2023)

- The local heritage item "Wetlands" is a wetland ecosystem which runs along the northern and southern sides of the Parramatta shore line and adjacent to the precinct's southern boundary. The proposed building will be located towards the northern boundary of the site, and therefore substantially separated from the item. The proposal will have no physical impact on the heritage item "wetlands".
- The proposed Indigenous Centre of Excellence has been designed drawing from the spatial language and sensory experience of the Mangroves at the confluence of Vineyard Creek and Parramatta River.
- The proposed landscaping works will provide a positive visual and cultural link to this heritage item as it has been designed using entirely an Indigenous planted landscape design which has been derived from the ecological communities which existed in the area, and as understood from surveys conducted. Surveys were undertaken at Vineyard Creek on the campus which identified unique examples of some of the original ecological communities that once existed across the Parramatta River catchment.<sup>53</sup> The proposed landscape design will respect the site's ecological history and will create a visual and physical relationship between the northern part of the precinct and the "wetlands" to the south.
- The proposed landscaping has been designed to directly relate to the native landscape by incorporating plant types from various ecological communities (selected in accordance with the survey conducted) including Shale-gravel transition forest, coastal flats swamp mahogany

<sup>53</sup> SSDA Design Report, Jackson Clements Burrows, 2024

forest, Cumberland River flat forest and new wetland areas within the southeastern corner of the site which will enhance the wider setting of the 'Wetlands' and its historical and ecological context.

### 7.3. Management Documents and Policies

#### 7.3.1. University of Western Sydney Parramatta South Campus Conservation Management Plan, 2008

The 2008 University of Western Sydney Parramatta South Campus, Conservation Management Plan (CMP) was prepared by Conybeare Morrison International and represents a key guiding document for heritage management within the broader UWS campus grounds. Section 6 of the CMP outlines the conservation policies for site, and the following table provides an assessment against the policy relevant to the study area and proposal.

Table 7.3: Relevant conservation policies

| CMP Policy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Response                                                                                                                                                                       | Complies |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>6.6 Future Use and Development</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                |          |
| <b>6.6.2 Future Development</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                |          |
| Policy 5.1<br><i>Ensure future development of the place is based on an understanding of its cultural significance including archaeology.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                               | The proposed building design and landscaping, have been designed to reflect the study areas aboriginal, cultural, and natural significance.                                    | Yes      |
| Policy 5.2<br><i>Ensure future development does not obscure original fabric or the configuration of the place, including the location of former Ha Ha walls.</i>                                                                                                                                                                           | The proposed building is significantly separated from significant original fabric at the site. The proposal does not obscure original fabric or the configuration of the site. | Yes      |
| Policy 5.3<br><i>The introduction of new works or fabric to a heritage building should not result in a lessening of the original significance of the place. New work should be identifiable as such and should, where possible, be capable of being reversible or removed without damage to significant fabric or spaces.</i> <sup>8</sup> | There are no proposed works to a heritage building within the precinct. The proposal is for the construction of a new building.                                                | Yes      |
| Policy 5.4<br><i>The preferred new uses for the significant buildings on the Campus, are uses that enhance the appreciation of the significance of the place and ensure the conservation of the place and its setting.</i>                                                                                                                 | There is no proposed new use for a significant building on the campus. The proposed development is the construction of a new building.                                         | Yes      |
| Policy 5.5<br><i>The preferred uses of site areas designated as capable of redevelopment, are uses which respect the significance and setting of the</i>                                                                                                                                                                                   | The proposed indigenous centre will enhance the setting of the significant heritage buildings within the precinct and                                                          | Yes      |

| CMP Policy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Complies |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <i>heritage Precincts and items (refer to the Campus Masterplan).</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | improve visual and usable linkages between the significant buildings to the south of the proposed site, and to the wetlands to the east. The proposed building will enhance the understanding of the indigenous heritage and history of the site. |          |
| <i>Policy 5.6 Ensure no new development takes place along the Parramatta River front, in an east-west line from Building EZ down to the river bank, other than that contained in Policy 5.B below.</i>                                                                                   | No new development proposed within the Parramatta River front.                                                                                                                                                                                    | N/A      |
| <i>Policy 5.7 Future Development along the Parramatta River front is to be confined to activities associated with the use of the river; such as the Boatshed and any future commuter ferry wharf.</i>                                                                                    | No new development proposed within the Parramatta River front.                                                                                                                                                                                    | N/A      |
| <b>6.6.3 Significant View Conservation Background</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |          |
| <i>Policy 5.10 Ensure the retention of significant views to and from the site along Victoria Road, James Ruse Drive and along the length of Parramatta River.</i>                                                                                                                        | As detailed within Sections 7.13 of this report, the proposal will conserve existing significant view lines.                                                                                                                                      | Yes      |
| <i>Policy 5. 11 The retention of significant views from Victoria Road, including from the campus entry road towards the north east corner of building ED, as well as the future opening up of the facade of building EO with a view corridor through the Cricket Ground (The Green).</i> | The proposal will not interrupt these significant views.                                                                                                                                                                                          | N/A      |
| <i>Policy 5. 12 The retention of Significant views from James Ruse Drive, both from the north and south directions, towards Arthurs Hill, which contain the buildings ES ,ET and EZ</i>                                                                                                  | The proposal will not interrupt these significant views.                                                                                                                                                                                          | N/A      |
| <i>Policy 5. 13 The visual dominance of the Female Orphan School (building EZ) is to be maintained for the length of the Parramatta River and in particular from the direction of Parramatta to the southwest.</i>                                                                       | As detailed within this report, the proposed works will not dominate or detract from significant views lines towards the Female Orphan School.                                                                                                    | Yes      |
| <i>Policy 5. 14 Internal views along the length of The Avenue are to be maintained and reinforced.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                   | The proposal will not obstruct any internal views along the length of the avenue.                                                                                                                                                                 | Yes      |
| <i>Policy 5.15 Ensure permeability of the Campus with the retention and reinforcement of View corridors from within the campus to the exterior. particularly to Parramatta River and Vineyard Creek.</i>                                                                                 | The proposal has been designed to improve the visual relationship and setting of significant buildings to the south and provide new and enhanced visual and cultural links to and from Vineyard creek to the east of the proposed building.       | Yes      |
| <b>6.6.4 Infill and New Works</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |          |

| CMP Policy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Complies |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <p><i>Policy 5.17 New works where applicable, should address the following major design criteria in relation to the heritage precincts and items:</i></p> <p><i>Character – maintain the characteristic quality of the place.</i></p> <p><i>Scale – avoid domination of the existing heritage structures and precincts</i></p> <p><i>Form - maintains harmonious massing.</i></p> <p><i>Siting - complements the existing siting.</i></p> <p><i>Materials and colour - compatibility of materials.</i></p> <p><i>Detailing - distinguish old from contemporary.</i></p> <p><i>Developmental sites should reflect the lines of demarcation of the former Ha Ha walls and not intrude into the spaces between these lines and the adjacent extant building, particularly Ha Ha numbers 1, 3 &amp; 4 on Figure 3.1</i></p> | <p>The proposed works will have an acceptable impact on the historic character of the heritage item as the works are largely separated from significant buildings at the site.</p> <p>The proposed three-storey scale is appropriate and similar to contemporary buildings at the site such as the library building EA and EB which are four storey buildings.</p> <p>The proposed materials will match/complement the overall sites contemporary fabric without being visually detracting or dominating within its immediate and wider historical setting. Detailing and proportions are clearly contemporary and will not compete with the more ornate style of significant heritage buildings at the site.</p> <p>The proposed colour palette is muted and consists of natural and light tones which will read as subservient to the predominantly masonry of significant structures at the site.</p> | Yes      |

### 7.3.2. University of Western Sydney Parramatta Campus Rydalmere Landscape Management Plan, 2003

| LMP Policy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>6.0 Management considerations</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Conserve the ecological systems of the natural landscape. Restore, enhance and interpret aspects of the Cumberland Plain vegetation, estuarine foreshore vegetation and freshwater riparian vegetation.</i></li> <li>– <i>Interpret Darug (Burramattagal) occupation.</i></li> <li>– <i>The management of the landscape of the study area should be informed by an understanding of the cultural and natural significance of the whole place.</i></li> <li>– <i>Recognise and respect the significant landscape character of the nominated</i></li> </ul> | <p>The proposed landscaping meets the management considerations for the State heritage listed 'Rydalmere Hospital Precinct (former)' site.</p> <p>The proposed landscape works have been informed by the cultural heritage links of the site and designed to conserve and enhance the study area's visual and cultural relationship with its significant landscape setting, and links to the Parramatta River and foreshore.</p> <p>For further detail please refer to landscape concept plan prepared by Jane Irwin Landscape Architecture submitted with this application.</p> |

| LMP Policy | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|            | <p><i>Conservation areas yet treat the whole Study area in a holistic way as a system of open spaces and institutional parkland setting for existing and new built form.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Continue institutional use and maintain culturally significant aspects of the human modified and natural topography.</i></li> <li>– <i>Maintain and enhance the historic role of the landscape of the nominated Conservation areas.</i></li> <li>– <i>Maintain views to and from the study area by recovering and enhancing significant view corridors. Retain the study area as a visible entity within the locality.</i></li> <li>– <i>Maintain and conserve evidence of the evolving phases associated with previous occupation and uses within the study area.</i></li> <li>– <i>Enhance and interpret the institutional role of the study area as a place of 19th Century and 20th Century health care.</i></li> <li>– <i>Maintain, conserve and interpret formations of old roads and paths.</i></li> <li>– <i>Limit car parking to areas outside the Conservation Area 1.</i></li> <li>– <i>Review this plan every ten years.</i></li> </ul> |

## 7.0 Detailed Policies

### 7.1 Archaeological Procedures

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><i>Policy 1.1 In any future works, adequate time, financial and staff resources shall be set aside for: (a) at the least, a watching brief for the purpose of recording and retrieving archaeological evidence before it is disturbed and destroyed. (b) in the event that a significant site is uncovered, the implementation of appropriate archaeological programme. in accordance with Burra Charter Articles.</i></p> | <p>Refer to Historical Archaeology Assessment prepared by Curio Projects and submitted with this application.</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| LMP Policy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Policy 1.2 An excavation permit from the Heritage Office of NSW should be obtained before the commencement of site works.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <i>Policy 1.3 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>                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>7.2 Landscape Character</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <i>Policy 1.4 Conservation actions should be regarded as a major new contribution to the management of the landscape.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | As detailed within this report the proposal has been designed to conserve and respect the study areas visual, cultural and functional relationship with the Parramatta River foreshore. New soft native landscaping will soften the appearance of the building when viewed in the setting of the university overall. |
| <i>Policy 1.5 Maintain a cultural landscape setting as defined by the conservation areas with conservation area 1 as the dominant historic landscape area which demonstrates the evolution of different attitudes towards institutional health care through the provision of open space and a n integral relationship with a landscape setting of parkland and gardens.</i> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <i>Policy 1.6 Conserve the overall character of each of the conservation areas. Maintain. replace and lor adapt the main landscape elements such as landform, built form, plantings and surfaces.</i>                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>7.3 Views</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <i>Policy 1.7 Maintain a landscape setting for the Conservation Area 1 which reinforces traditional views to and from Sydney Harbour (Parramatta River) to the south and the entrance roads to the north.</i>                                                                                                                                                               | The proposed building and associated landscaping will replace an existing carpark. As addressed in this report, the proposed landscape design of the indigenous centre has been designed be in keeping with the original native ecological landscape setting of the site.                                            |
| <i>Policy 1.8 Conserve significant views to and from Conservation Area 1 including previously important views some of which may be blocked, through selective pruning or tree removal and with judicious placement of new trees.</i>                                                                                                                                        | Significant views are not impacted by the proposed landscaping works.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <i>Policy 1.9 Maintain existing and traditional view access from Sydney Harbour landing places, former approach roads and from James Ruse Drive.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>7.4 Indigenous vegetation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

| LMP Policy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><i>Policy 1. 10 Maintain a balance between native and exotic species in the short term with the progressive removal of the exotic species as part of an ongoing maintenance and bush regeneration programme. Gradually increase the indigenous plants to reconstruct the Open Forest structure to serve as possible wildlife habitat, reduce erosion of soil and as a visual screen to the landscape character of the neighbouring land uses.</i></p> | <p>The landscape plan prepared by Jane Irwin Landscape Architecture details that established native planting will be retained and conserved and new native planting introduced where appropriate.</p> <p>The species selection has been drawn from:</p> <p>CASTLEREAGH SHALE-GRAVEL TRANSITION FOREST - a Cumberland Dry Sclerophyll Forest type, CUMBERLAND RIVERFLAT FOREST - a Coastal Floodplain Wetland, COASTAL FLATS SWAMP MAHOGANY FOREST - Coastal Swamp Forest, SYDNEY TURPENTINE IRONBARK FOREST - a dominant plant community type pre-clearing and currently one of the few larger remnants in the area.</p> |
| <b>7.5 Exotic Vegetation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <p><i>Policy 1. 11 Grassland : conserve grassed areas generally as a uniting surface element within the traditional institutional parkland structure established throughout the study area. Consider nominated areas as irrigated such as courtyards and high use areas and more peripheral areas as dry/and grassed areas to minimise impact of water usage.</i></p>                                                                                    | <p>There are no proposed works to the existing grass land.</p> <p>A study of the original ecological communities that once existed across the Parramatta River catchment has been used to inform the proposed landscaping at the site.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <p><i>Policy 1. 12 Trees: conserve existing trees generally until their condition requires replacement and as indicated on the Tree Survey Plan (Fig. Appendix A)</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>The new vegetation will enhance the visual character of the overall site and will be a better outcome for the site and will improve the visual character by increasing vegetation and creating separation between significant buildings at the site and the main road Victoria road.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <p><i>Policy 1.13 Gardens : reconstruct and/or adapt gardens to be sympathetic to lor an interpretation of the form and character of known former gardens based on archival and physical evidence. New gardens should respect the site context within each of the nominated Conservation Areas.</i></p>                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>7.6 Built form</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <p><i>Policy 1.14 Conserve the significant built fabric and landscape elements within the Conservation Area 1. Any adaption or new work within this area should respect the form scale and character of the significant built fabric and its landscape setting.</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>There are no existing significant landscaped elements within the study area which will be affected by the proposed landscaping works.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <p><i>Policy 1.15 All stone and brick edgings, including kerbs, gutters and drains, walling and steps should be conserved in situ.</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

**LMP Policy****Response**

*Policy 1.16 Maintain traditional ground modelling where this is evident.*

## 7.4. Heritage Impact of the Temporary Car Parks

This assessment has been prepared with reference to TKD Architects' Heritage Impact Statement (8 October 2024) for the proposed installation of two temporary car parks within the northern section of the Western Sydney University Parramatta South Campus. The car parks are situated within the boundaries of the 'Rydalmere Hospital Precinct (former)' (SHR No. 00749), a State heritage item.

The proposed car parking facilities, intended to operate temporarily during the staged development of the campus, include:

- A western car park located adjacent to the sports oval, and
- An eastern car park sited just north of the Vernon Building (Wards 13–16).

Both locations are on open lawn areas outside the precinct's historic built core. The works involve the installation of bitumen hardstand surfaces, stormwater services, and low-impact lighting and signage.

The proposed temporary car parks are located within two heritage conservation areas identified in the *Rydalmere Hospital Landscape Management Plan (2003)*, each with distinct historical values and spatial character:

- The **western temporary car park** falls within the Cricket Ground and Venues Conservation Area 2, which includes the heritage-listed cricket oval and its associated setting. This conservation area is significant for its long-standing recreational use, informal viewing mounds, mature plantings, and the broader open green space that supported sporting and therapeutic activities during the site's institutional use.
- The proposed car park is positioned at the edge of this setting, adjacent to (but not within) the oval proper. The car park will also partly occupy a portion of the site formally used as a car park (c.2009 Refer to Figure 3-25). The cricket ground, its function, and its spatial identity will remain unaffected and legible, and no significant trees or landscape features will be removed or altered. The temporary works are low-scale and reversible and will not diminish the conservation area's heritage significance or interfere with its future interpretation or use.
- The **eastern temporary car park** is located within the Institutional Complex Conservation Area 1, which includes key 19th- and early 20th-century hospital-era buildings and their landscaped curtilage. This area is significant for its formal axial planning, historical pathways, and remnants of institutional landscape design such as ha-ha walls and terrace formations. The eastern car park site lies to the north of the Vernon Building (Wards 13–16), on a lawn area that previously formed part of the airing yards. While the site is within the conservation area, the historic landscape configuration has been substantially eroded through previous site works. No extant structures or significant features will be removed or concealed, and the former ha-ha wall, now infilled and not visible above ground will be protected through archaeological monitoring measures.

**7.4.1. Visual and physical impacts:**

- The car parks are designed to minimise visual intrusion. They are located away from significant heritage structures and oriented along the periphery of the campus, consistent with the Conservation Management Plan (CMP, 2008) principles for new infrastructure.
- No historic buildings or landscape features are to be removed or altered. Existing mature trees near the eastern car park will be retained.
- The western car park is located beside the heritage-era cricket oval, but the oval itself and its setting are unaffected and the new parking area will partly occupy a portion of the site substantially disturbed and formally used for the purposes of a car park (c.2009).
- The eastern car park is near the Vernon Building, a significant Federation-period ward building. While this building once faced formal airing yards to the north, that landscape context has been lost over time. The new car park sits on a site with low landscape integrity and will not impact the surviving cultural fabric.

**7.4.2. Reversibility:**

- Importantly, the proposed car parks are temporary. Their construction does not involve significant excavation or permanent infrastructure. Upon removal, the open lawns can be readily reinstated, preserving the long-term interpretive and spatial qualities of the precinct.

**7.4.3. Compliance with CMP Policies:**

- The proposal aligns with CMP Policy 3.13, which encourages new development to be sited at the outer edges of the campus.
- It also respects Policy 5.2, ensuring no obstruction or degradation of known heritage features, including ha-ha walls and significant sight lines.
- The works will not disrupt significant views defined in the CMP (e.g., from Victoria Road or along The Avenue), In particular policy 5.11.

| CMP Policy                                              | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Policy 3.1 (Visual setting, views, ha-ha walls)         | The proposed car parks are located away from key visual corridors identified in the CMP (e.g. views from Victoria Road, James Ruse Drive, The Avenue, and to/from the Parramatta River). The eastern car park lies near the former ha-ha wall north of the Vernon Building, but the wall is no longer visible or interpreted in the landscape. No existing interpretation is disrupted. The works are ground-level only and fully reversible and thus do not compromise the retention or future interpretation of these cultural relationships. |
| Policy 3.2 (No adverse effect on setting/relationships) | The works have been sited outside the historic institutional core of the campus, in open lawn areas with limited landscape integrity. The western car park does not affect the cricket oval or its associated historic recreational use. The eastern car park is outside the formal setting of the Vernon Building. No significant views or visual relationships are impacted. The use of asphalt and                                                                                                                                           |

| CMP Policy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | low-scale elements (e.g. line marking, lighting) ensures minimal intrusion.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Policy 3.3 (Retain evidence of historic phases)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | The selected car park locations do not contain surviving physical evidence of key historic phases. Historic elements such as airing courts, early plantings, and formal pathways have been removed or substantially altered. No significant archaeology is expected to be disturbed; however, archaeological advice has been sought regarding the former ha-ha wall to the south of the eastern car park.                            |
| Policy 3.12 (Paving finishes and road materials)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | The proposed paving is to be consistent with existing university roads and car parks, standard vehicular-grade asphalt with concrete or flush edges. The material selection aligns with the CMP's recommendation to maintain a cohesive visual and functional environment across the campus.                                                                                                                                         |
| Policy 3.13 (New infrastructure on edges of campus)                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Both car parks are positioned at the campus periphery: the western car park to the far west of the cricket oval, and the eastern car park north of the Vernon Building, outside its formal setting. This location strategy directly aligns with the CMP's preference for infrastructure placement. The scale and design of the works are subdued and visually recessive.                                                             |
| Policy 5.2 (Avoid obscuring original fabric or configuration)                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | The works will not obscure any extant historic fabric. The ha-ha wall adjacent to the Vernon Building has been infilled and is no longer visible. The car park surface will be laid over grassed areas and can be removed in future without damage to potential sub-surface remains. An archaeologist has been engaged to advise on appropriate management measures.                                                                 |
| Policy 5.11 The retention of significant views from Victoria Road, including from the campus entry road towards the north east corner of building ED, as well as the future opening up of the facade of building EO with a view corridor through the Cricket Ground (The Green) | <p>The proposed temporary car parks will not obstruct or alter any identified significant views from Victoria Road, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Views from the campus entry road toward the north-east corner of Building ED; and</li> </ul> <p>Conserve the long-term strategic goal of opening the façade of Building EO to enable a view corridor across the historic cricket ground (The Green).</p> |

## 7.5. Statement of Heritage Impact

The proposed two temporary car parks at the Western Sydney University (WSU) Parramatta South Campus forms part of a broader program of campus redevelopment, including the construction of the Indigenous Centre of Excellence (ICoE). The car parks are required to maintain operational functionality during construction and will be fully removed upon project completion.

The temporary car parks are sited within two heritage conservation areas identified in the *Rydalmere Hospital Landscape Management Plan (2003)*:

- The **western car park** is located within the **Cricket Ground and Venues Conservation Area 2**, which encompasses the historic oval and its recreational setting.

- The **eastern car park** is located within the **Institutional Complex Conservation Area 1**, which includes the Vernon Building and its historic landscape curtilage.

These conservation areas contribute to the significance of the 'Rydalmere Hospital Precinct (former)' (SHR No. 00749), a State heritage item listed on the NSW State Heritage Register.

#### **Impact on Conservation Area 2 – Western Car Park**

The western car park occupies a portion of the open lawn adjacent to the historic cricket oval but does not intrude upon the oval itself or its viewing mounds and occupies an area which was recently used for the purposes of a car park (c.2009). No significant landscape features, trees, or heritage fabric will be removed. The open spatial character of the area will be retained, and the heritage significance of the oval and its recreational use will remain intact. The car park surface, lighting, and signage have been designed to be visually recessive and reversible. Upon removal, the site can be fully reinstated as open green space, ensuring no long-term heritage impact.

#### **Impact on Conservation Area 1 – Eastern Car Park**

The eastern car park is located north of the Vernon Building (Wards 13–16) in an area that formerly comprised airing yards and terracing. While within the curtilage of this institutional landscape, the site has undergone extensive disturbance through past works. No extant heritage structures or plantings will be affected. The former Ha-Ha wall located nearby has been previously infilled and is not visible at ground level. Archaeological monitoring will be undertaken to manage any potential subsurface remains. The works are limited to surface-level asphalt and line marking and will not obscure the spatial relationship between the building and its former landscape setting.

## 8. Conclusions and Recommendations

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### 8.1. Conclusion

This Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) has been prepared to support a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) for the combined development of a new Indigenous Centre of Excellence and two temporary car parks at the Western Sydney University (WSU) Parramatta South Campus.

#### 8.1.1. Proposed Development

The proposed Indigenous Centre of Excellence (ICoE) will replace an existing car park with a state-of-the-art educational and cultural facility dedicated to advancing Indigenous knowledge, leadership, and reconciliation. The proposal reflects a sensitive and thoughtful approach to design, incorporating Indigenous-led architecture and native landscaping that is contextually responsive to both cultural and ecological heritage values. The building's scale, form, and material palette are sympathetic to its setting and clearly distinguishable from the adjacent heritage fabric.

The temporary car parks are located on open, previously disturbed land at the periphery of the heritage-listed campus. They have been sited and designed to avoid direct or indirect impacts on significant buildings, archaeological features, view corridors, or heritage landscapes. As temporary interventions, the works are fully reversible and consistent with the conservation policies outlined in the site's Conservation Management Plan (CMP).

There will be no physical impacts on any significant heritage items within the vicinity, including the State Heritage Register-listed Rydalmere Hospital Precinct (former) (SHR No. 00749) and the locally listed "Wetlands" (Item I011). Visual impacts are considered neutral to positive, with the ICoE enhancing the aesthetic and cultural value of the site and the car parks having only minor, short-term effects.

The historical and aesthetic significance of the heritage items across the campus will remain legible, particularly through principal view corridors from and toward the site. The proposal is consistent with the principles of the Burra Charter and The Design Guide for Heritage, and overall, is considered a positive heritage outcome that reinforces the University's role as both a place of education and cultural stewardship.

### 8.2. Recommendations

Curio makes the following recommendations to further conserve the significance of the precinct:

To further conserve and enhance the heritage significance of the site, the following actions are recommended:

- A photographic archival record should be undertaken prior to demolition or ground disturbance, capturing the site's existing condition and historic elements where relevant.
- A Heritage Interpretation Plan should be prepared following formal consultation with the Aboriginal community, informed by the findings of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.
- The temporary car parks should be monitored and clearly documented as non-permanent. A commitment to full removal and landscape reinstatement should be secured once no longer required.

- Landscape and signage strategies should aim to strengthen visual and cultural connections to significant heritage features, including the Parramatta River, the Female Orphan School, and surrounding historical precincts.

## 9. References

## 9. References

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