

Mr Kym Dracopoulos
Manager, Technical Services
Goodmans

Dear Mr Dracopoulos,

Re: Excavation Summary Report – Oakdale South Historical Archaeological Investigations (SSD 6917)

This letter provides an initial excavation summary report for the Oakdale South historical archaeological investigations. The historical archaeological investigations were conducted under the approved SSD application (SSD 6917) to meet consent conditions E30 to E33. Artefact Heritage undertook archaeological monitoring and excavation in November and December 2016.

Significant archaeological remains associated with the nineteenth century occupation and farming of the site were identified, investigated and recorded.

This preliminary results letter should be submitted to Heritage Division for their records and comment. A final excavation report will be prepared and submitted to the relevant authorities to fulfil the historical archaeological conditions of consent. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Kind Regards,



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1.0 EXCAVATION SUMMARY REPORT

1.1 Project background

Oakdale South Estate is a precinct within the wider “Oakdale” Estate development. It will be part of a regional distribution park of warehouses, distribution centres and freight logistic facilities. The proposal is approved as a State Significant Development (SSD) under the application SSD 6917.

The non-Aboriginal Heritage and Archaeological Impact Assessment (HAIA) (Artefact Heritage, April 2015) prepared for the SSD application identified the potential for archaeological remains of an outbuilding complex associated with the Lochwood Estate (1815-1919) to be impacted by bulk earthworks and construction.

Historical archaeological test excavation was conducted by Artefact Heritage between 28 to 30 July 2015 to ascertain the extent of potential historical archaeological remains. The test excavations confirmed the presence of significant archaeological remains. Following the results of the test excavation, archaeological monitoring and salvage was proposed to mitigate the impacts from the Oakdale South construction works.

Artefact undertook a program of historical archaeological monitoring and salvage between November and December 2016. The historical archaeological investigations and archaeological monitoring were conducted under the SSDA conditions E30 to E33. State and locally significant archaeological remains associated with the nineteenth century occupation and farming of the site were identified, investigated and recorded.

The following report presents the preliminary results from the historical archaeological excavation and provides an outline of the next phase of post-excavation analysis and reporting requirements.

1.2 Authorship

This report was prepared by Shona Lindsay (Site Supervisor) with input from Abi Cryerhall (Excavation Director). Dr Sandra Wallace (Principal) provided the final review.

1.3 Archaeological investigation methodology

The investigation methodology was in accordance with the Artefact Heritage Historical Archaeological Research Design (ARD) prepared in August 2016 and approved by Heritage Division on 31 October 2016. Archaeological excavation was proposed for an area of high potential and known archaeological remains identified from test excavations. Other areas of potential were archaeologically monitored as per the ARD methodology.

Archaeologists supervised topsoil and fill removal from the area of known archaeology (from testing) and exposed the full extent of building remains, including the known farm building. Once the remains were exposed, manual excavation and recording was undertaken.

Archaeologists monitored topsoil stripping from surrounding areas and identified three additional archaeological remains of former buildings, as well as fence posts, rubbish dumps and demolition rubble. The archaeological remains in the monitoring area were exposed, manually excavated, and recorded.

All the archaeological remains were surveyed. Artefacts were collected by context, bagged, labelled, and have been temporarily stored awaiting specialist analysis.

Once the investigation areas were cleared of archaeological remains, the unexpected finds policy was enforced for all future works.

1.4 Excavation team

The archaeological excavation was led by Abi Cryerhall as Excavation Director and Shona Lindsay as Site Supervisor. Guy Hazell was the archaeological surveyor. Archaeologists were Cornelia De Rochefort, Rebecca Jones, Julia McLachlan, Stephanie Moore, Ryan Taddeucci, Jayden van Beek, and Adele Zubrzycka.

1.5 Summary of main findings

1.5.1 Building 1– 1830s cottage

- Remains of a four-roomed cottage with central entrance.
- Remains consisted of sandstock brick footings and postholes, two sandstock brick fireplaces and a sandstone hearthstone, timber floor remains, a brick-paved front porch, brick drains and disturbed occupation-related deposits containing artefacts, and demolition material.
- Two phases of construction. Based on the building materials the initial construction dates to the c1820s-1830s. A later phase of additions and alterations in the mid-late nineteenth century included the brick-paved front porch and remodelling of interior features such as the front room fireplace.
- Artefacts from the disturbed occupation-related material include a range of domestic items such as ceramic and glass fragments, clay pipes, thimbles and pins, coins, beads and jewellery items, and marbles. Initial review indicate that the artefacts range between nineteenth and early twentieth century in date.
- Building materials in the demolition fills include painted plaster fragments, moulded plaster fragments, and hand-drawn nails of various sizes and types. Initial interpretation suggests the interior walls were potentially lath and plaster rather than solid brick.
- The cottage remains are associated with the Lochwood Estate house built in the 1820s. There is a clear visual link between this cottage and the main estate house on the hill to the east. The cottage was occupied from the c1820s-1830s to the early twentieth century. Lack of modern items in the deposits, demolition and surround fills suggest it had been abandoned by the 1920s-1930s. The later occupation evidence is likely related to the Lenore Estate Solider Settlement Scheme phase.

1.5.2 Building 2 – Store/men's cottage

- A small rectangular outbuilding was located to the northeast of the cottage. It consisted of a brick floor with a concrete surface. Timber beams surrounded the rectangular floor. A rubbish deposit was located to the north of the building with numerous glass and ceramic artefacts.
- To the west of the building a larger building was attached, with a fireplace and small brick footings. A disturbed occupation layer and fills were located within the structure.

- It is possible the outbuilding was used for a store with an attached men's cottage, and was part of the outbuildings complex associated with the main cottage. This corresponds to the early records from 1826 that list a cottage and tenement¹, and a newspaper article dating to 3 May 1905 that discuss a cottage and a men's cottage. Initial analysis of the artefacts reflects this type of occupation.²
- The buildings are associated with the second phase of development in the farmstead complex and date from c1860s.

1.5.3 Outbuilding – Timber-slab shed

- Truncated and ephemeral remains of a rectangular timber-slab shed was located to the south of the cottage. The remains consisted of slot 'trenches' with elongated sub-rectangular 'post-pipes' which represented the timber-slabs placed within the natural ground and discolouration in the natural ground where it had decomposed.
- No archaeological deposits or artefacts were found in association with the timber slab building remains.

1.5.4 Outbuilding – Outhouse

- Brick footings of two possible fireplaces or a small outbuilding were uncovered in the monitoring area. This was constructed from similar bricks from the second phase of construction of the cottage.
- Artefacts within the fill included ceramic fragments, bottle glass fragments, clay pipe, animal bone, and metal nails. These were from disturbed deposits and fills surrounding the structural remains.
- The structure likely dates from the mid nineteenth century.

1.5.5 Outbuilding – Horse equipment store

- Sandstone footings in a square alignment were uncovered during monitoring
- A large amount of metal items were uncovered, possibly associated with a store for horse equipment. Items included farrier equipment, such as a rasp and hoof nipper, horse bit, ace head, rein holder, and saddlery attachments. A large amount of corrugated metal was also located in the demolition fill within the structure. Two timber beams were located to the west of the building.
- This store may reflect the horse breeding that was common in the area, and that was to have been conducted on the Lochwood Estate. Further analysis would suggest why an imported stone (sandstone) was used for the building, unlike the other buildings in the complex and indicate phasing. Most of the items dated to the twentieth century.

¹ 'Indenture between Robert Johnston Esquire and Others to Mr. Charles Shewell dated 13 October 1826'. Norton Smith and Co. Documents Misc. Deeds J-K, No. 66. A5320.

² Sydney Morning Herald, Wednesday 3 May 1905. *Lochwood Estate*.

1.5.6 Other remains

- A compacted rubble surface was located to the east of the cottage, most likely as this area was used for vehicles and had constant traffic.
- Field drains constructed with both local blue stone and brick rubble were located to the north and south of the cottage. The field drains were mostly in an east-west alignment. This would have enabled proper drainage of the site from run off to the east of the building.
- Timber posts for possible fences and yards surrounded the cottage, and were located within the monitoring area to the north of the cottage. A range of timbers were used, suggesting different phases of construction.
- Demolition rubble consisting of local blue stone was located to the east of the dam, with various phasing of rubbish deposits located around the dam.
- Rubbish deposits consisting of charcoal, glass, and ceramics were also located to the east of the dam and north of the outbuilding complex.

1.6 Preliminary interpretation and significance

There were two main phases of construction at the site; the c1820s-1830s and c1860s. It is unclear if these related to different ownerships or historical events. The early phase is most likely closely associated with the Lochwood Estate, though the relationship between the cottage and the main homestead is unclear at this stage. Later nineteenth century occupation is more likely associated with subdivision and tenant farmers, rather than Lochwood. There also appears to have been early to mid twentieth century phase of occupation relating to the soldier settlement scheme.

More detailed analysis of the findings, artefacts and historical records would clarify this and provide valuable evidence and insight into rural life from early colonial times, nineteenth century subdivision and settlement patterns, rural economy and the success, or not, of post WW1 settlement schemes. The archaeological results have the ability to answer more varied and complex research questions than those posed following the test excavation. The archaeological remains were more extensive and well-preserved than anticipated. The survival and archaeological investigation of sites of this type is relatively uncommon in the greater Sydney area. The archaeology is of local and state significance.

1.7 Post-excavation analysis and reporting

A program of post-excavation analysis and reporting is the next step in fulfilling the archaeological mitigation conditions of consent.

Post-excavation analysis is to include:

- detailed description and phasing of archaeological features and deposits
- production of data registers, photo and survey plans archives (digital format)
- preparation of archaeological scale drawings and interpretive plans
- analysis of building material samples
- analysis of artefacts from within the cottage and other structures
- re-evaluation of the research questions formulated prior to the excavation

- additional research into Lochwood estate and synthesis of historical information with archaeological data to aid interpretation and significance assessment

A final report is to be prepared in accordance with Heritage Division requirements and standard archaeological permit conditions.

2.0 PHOTOS AND SURVEY

2.1 Photos

Figure 1: Excavation area prior to topsoil removal



Figure 2: Start of excavation of Building 1 – cottage, east aspect



Figure 3: Removal of topsoil across excavation area revealing rubble-filled field drain



Figure 4: Building 1 – cottage, west aspect



Figure 5: Building 1 – cottage rear north room, south aspect



Figure 6: Building 1 – cottage, showing cart tracks at front entrance, northwest aspect



Figure 7: Building 1 – cottage entrance, west aspect



Figure 8: Building 1 – cottage front north room with timber floor beams remaining, west aspect



Figure 9: Building 1 – cottage, rear north room, east aspect



Figure 10: Building 1 – cottage, southeast brick drain from front corner of cottage, north aspect



Figure 11: Building 2 – store, southeast aspect



Figure 12: Building 2 – store, southwest aspect



Figure 13: Outbuilding – timber slab shed, east aspect



Figure 14: Outbuilding – outhouse– south aspect



Figure 15: Outbuilding – horse equipment store, east aspect



Figure 16: Timber posts in monitoring area



Figure 17: Charcoal rubbish deposit in monitoring area to the northeast of building complex, north aspect



Figure 18: Cleared monitoring area to the south of the building complex, west aspect



2.2 Surveys



