



Historic and Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment

2 Figtree Drive, Sydney Olympic Park

August 2015

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Executive Summary

Urbis has been engaged by Mirvac to prepare the following Historic and Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment to accompany a development application for works to 2 Figtree Drive, Sydney Olympic Park (the 'subject site').

Sydney Olympic Park occupies a site of approximately 635 hectares between the Parramatta River and the M4 Motorway and is presently the site of a significant urban renewal program. In accordance with the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs), an Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment is required to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS) currently being prepared for the proposed redevelopment of the subject site. This report outlines if any heritage constraints affect the subject site, and advise on whether further archaeological investigation may be required at later stages of the project.

The proposal includes the demolition of the existing building, the removal/relocation of the existing electrical substation and the construction of four separate buildings between 5-15 stories in height and associated driveways and landscaping. The development will consist of a mixed use development, comprising of 422 residential units, one commercial/retail tenancy and three levels of basement car parking.

The subject site is located on land originally granted to Darcy Wentworth in 1811. He established a homestead, a horse stud and race track on his 920 acre property which remained in the Wentworth family until the early decades of the 20th century. The area has since been used by the State Abattoirs and brick works. During the 1980s-90s the subject site was developed and promoted as part of a 'technology park' called the Australia Centre. The site currently contains two buildings consisting of office/commercial and warehouse space, driveway, parking areas, paths and gardens. The buildings are located in the northern and eastern portions of the site with on-grade parking areas in the western and southern areas. The double storey, rendered concrete and glass offices were constructed in 1998 as the Corporate Headquarters for Homebush Bay and the NSW Lotteries Office.

Several archaeological surveys of the subject site have been undertaken. No evidence of Aboriginal occupation was located in the current or previous surveys of the site. Previous excavation of the site in 1997 revealed that the general topography had remained unimpaired however the existing ground surface was largely an introduced, or reformed top soil. The implication from these excavations is that natural soil profiles were partially or completely eroded after European settlement, and were reformed or replaced in the 19th or early 20th centuries. It is therefore unlikely that evidence of aboriginal occupation would have survived on the site.

According to documentary and photographic evidence, it is unlikely that any development was undertaken on the subject site prior to the construction of the current 1998 buildings apart from the addition of levelling material. Carney and Steele undertook a survey and test excavation on the site in 1997 and found that there was no evidence of previous structures or land use. It is unlikely that Wentworth's house was located on or in the vicinity of the subject site. The 1986 Heritage Study suggests that the homestead was located where the current administration buildings are now constructed.

The subject site has been heavily modified as a result of construction of roads and footpaths on the site boundary and the construction of the current buildings and car parking on the site. The site has been benched to accommodate the slope. The landscaped areas of the site contain below ground irrigation and there are also a number of pits, electricity, communications, gas and water services present on the site. There is no evidence of previous structures, roads or topographic features. While evidence of Aboriginal or early European occupation of the site would be highly significant we have concluded that the site is considered to have no archaeological potential or significance.

This report satisfies the SEARs for an Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment to inform the EIS currently being prepared for the proposed redevelopment of the subject site.

No further approvals concerning Aboriginal or historic archaeology are required.

1 Introduction

1.1 BACKGROUND

Urbis has been engaged by Mirvac to prepare the following Historic and Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment to accompany a development application for works to 2 Figtree Drive, Sydney Olympic Park (the 'subject site').

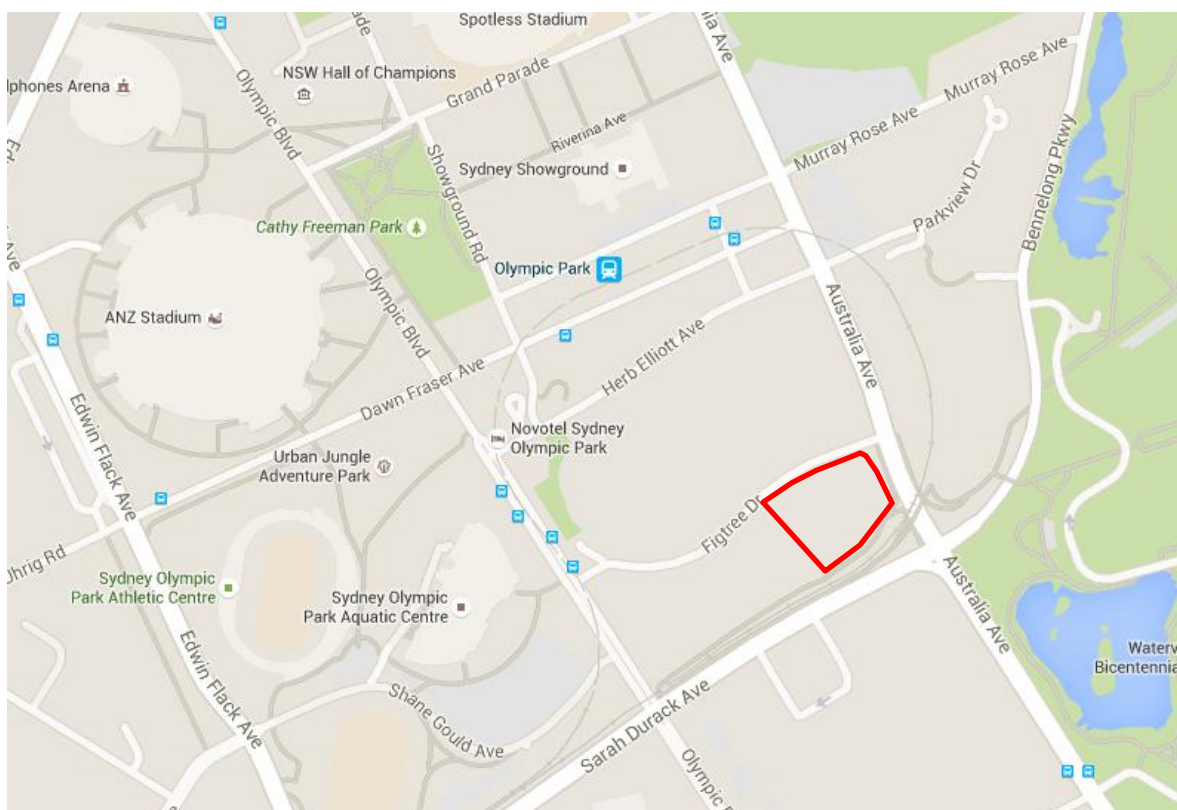
In accordance with the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs), an Aboriginal and Historic Archaeological Assessment is required to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS) currently being prepared for the proposed redevelopment of the subject site. The archaeological assessment considers both Historic and Aboriginal archaeology and outlines any heritage constraints within the subject site, and advise on whether further archaeological investigation may be required at later stages of the project. The assessment will be prepared to satisfy the SEARs and inform future applications and design development, if required.

In addition, the SEARs also require a heritage impact statement (HIS) to address visual impact of the proposed high rise development on State Heritage Items in the vicinity, including the Newington Armament Depot and Nature Reserve. This will be addressed in a separate report.

1.2 SITE LOCATION

The site is located at 2 Figtree Drive, Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush Bay (Figure 1).

FIGURE 1 – LOCATION OF SUBJECT SITE (RED).



SOURCE: GOOGLE MAPS 2015.

1.3 AUTHOR IDENTIFICATION

The following report has been prepared by Karyn McLeod (Archaeologist). Stephen Davies (Director) has reviewed and endorsed its content.

Unless otherwise stated, all drawings, illustrations and photographs are the work of Urbis.

1.4 METHODOLOGY

Historical and Aboriginal investigation of the subject site occurred in 1997 prior to the construction of the current buildings on the site. The recommendations of those reports are now obsolete due to the subsequent development of the site.

This Archaeological Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the NSW Heritage Branch guidelines 'Assessing Heritage Significance' (2001) and Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics' (2009). The philosophy and process adopted is that guided by the *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter* 1999 (revised 2013).

Statutory planning controls for the site are provided under the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Projects) 2005*. The other primary consideration is the *Sydney Olympic Park Master Plan 2030*, a statutory document under the *Sydney Olympic Park Authority Act 2001* which provides more detailed design controls.

1.4.1 ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION

In 1997 survey of the subject site was undertaken and no evidence for Aboriginal use of the site was identified. In addition, historical archaeological testing of the subject site was undertaken in the same year.¹ Carney and Steele² recommended that a program of archaeological monitoring of future development works be carried out. At the time the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC) representative indicated that the MLALC did not consider the study area to have any issues of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance or sensitivity unrelated to the identified sites and areas of archaeological potential.

The site has since been developed which has included extensive below ground works and benching of the site for the current buildings and car park. It was therefore considered unnecessary to consult with the MLALC prior to the preliminary site visit.

1.5 THE PROPOSAL

Sydney Olympic Park is presently the site of a significant urban renewal project. The Sydney Olympic Park Authority (SOPA) are releasing land within its precinct for the development of residential apartment buildings. The proposal includes;

- Demolition of the existing building,
- Removal/relocation of the existing electrical substation,
- Re-grading site levels through excavation, cutting and filling of soil on site.
- Construction of a mixed use development, comprising of 422 residential units, one commercial/retail tenancies and three levels of basement car parking. The development will consist of four separate buildings between 5-15 stories in height and associated driveways, gardens, turf, paths, paving and retaining walls.

Due to the impact to the site and in accordance with the Secretary's Environmental Assessment SEARs, "...an Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal archaeological assessment detailing the likely impacts and outline the proposed management and mitigation measures to protect and preserve the archaeology".

¹ Carney, M. & D. Mider. 1996. *Archaeological assessment and research design of Homebush House & the former Laycock and Wentworth Estates: Site of the 2000 Olympics, Homebush*. Report prepared for McKenzie Land Planning Services Pty Ltd - referenced in Steele 1997 (report not found).

² Carney, M. & D. Steele 1997

2 Site Description

2.1 SITE INSPECTION

A site inspection was carried out on Thursday 18th June 2015. All external areas of the site were accessible. The purpose of the survey was to inspect the area for evidence of original topography and vegetation as well as any evidence of Aboriginal or historic archaeological sites and to identify the potential for archaeologically sensitive areas to be present within the study area. The site inspection consisted of pedestrian survey throughout all accessible areas of the site. No Aboriginal or historic or sites have been previously recorded on the subject site and no new sites were located during the survey.

Sydney Olympic Park occupies a site of approximately 635 hectares between the Parramatta River and the M4 Motorway. It is a huge sporting, entertainment and exhibition area that includes most of the venues used at the Sydney Olympics in 2000. Bicentennial Park, on the shore of Homebush Bay to the east, was created during the 1980s and includes picnic, barbecue and event venues. The bay's preserved tidal and mangrove wetlands, which are accessible by wooden walkways, are sanctuaries for birds and fish.³

FIGURE 2 – THE SUBJECT SITE



SOURCE: SPATIAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE (SIX MAPS) LAND AND PROPERTY INFORMATION

During the 1980s, the land situated between Dawn Fraser Avenue to the north, Sarah Durack Avenue to the south, Australia Avenue to the east and Olympic Boulevard to the west was developed and promoted as a 'technology park' called the Australia Centre. Sydney Olympic Park has undergone a significant amount of development work since then to support its conversion to a multipurpose facility with a number of businesses re-locating to the area. Commercial developments now sit alongside sporting facilities and the area is again being redeveloped for additional residential and commercial use.

³ ibid

The entire subject site has been heavily modified as a result of construction of roads and footpaths on the site boundary and the construction of the buildings and car parking on the site. The site has been benched to accommodate the slope. The landscaped areas of the site contain below ground irrigation and there are also a number of pits, electricity, Telstra, gas and water services present on the site. There is no evidence of previous structures, roads or topographic features and only three mature fig trees provide an indication of the original ground level.

2.2 TOPOGRAPHY AND LANDFORM

The greater Olympic Park area is dominated by the estuary formed by the Parramatta River, Homebush Bay, Haslams Creek, and Powells Creek. Haslams and Powells Creek both drain into Homebush Bay estuary on the southern side of the Parramatta River, but now most of their course been modified, buried in pipes or concreted over.⁴

There are two principal geological units present within the study region. The first of these comprises of Wianamatta Group shales. Occurring at an elevation of approximately 4-Sm ASL, shale completely overlies the Hawkesbury Sandstone south of the Parramatta River. The second principal geological unit present within the region comprises of Quaternary alluvial deposits of sand, silt and clay. These alluvial units have been extensively deposited along Haslams and Powells Creeks, in addition to areas along the western side of Homebush Bay. Generally the landscape is characterised by gently undulating rises on Wianamatta Group shales and Hawkesbury shale. There is local relief to 30 m, and slope gradients usually less than 5%. Additionally there are broad rounded crests and ridges with gently inclined slopes. Rock outcropping does not occur.⁵

The subject site is part of a typical podzolic soil profile for the area identified as the "Blacktown Soil Landscape" on the Sydney 1:100 000 Geological Series Sheet. Red/Brown Podzolic soils are a common soil type in the Homebush Bay area. These soils are generally limited by moderately reactive highly plastic subsoil, low soil fertility, and poor soil drainage.⁶

The subject site ground surface slopes gently to the south. A variable depth of cutting and filling is expected to be present on the site as a result of previous development and possibly as a result of remediation and land management prior to the Sydney Olympic Games. Geotechnical investigation of the site demonstrates that the upper level of deposit consists of 0.2m - 3.0m of sandy and clay filling with silt, gravel, shale, sandstone, concrete, brick, charcoal, timber, slag and rootlets across the site.⁷

Douglas Partners also undertook site inspections during construction of the current building which occupies the site. The inspection records indicate that the building is supported by piles founded in medium to high strength shale at depths of 2.5 m to 6 m below the surface levels at the time of construction.⁸

2.3 VEGETATION

All of the vegetation zones which are likely to have characterised the pre - European environmental context of the region have been reduced during the post-contact period, much of this impact having occurred during comparatively recent periods.⁹ The original landscape included eucalyptus forest on Wianamatta shale soils and wetlands in the lower reaches of Haslams Creek and Powells Creek and on the shores of Homebush Bay and the Parramatta River. Remnants of the Ironbark and scribbly gum eucalyptus forest and Aboriginal archaeological sites are preserved in the Newington Armoury.¹⁰ The first European observations of the land recorded trees far apart and noted there was long grass and no underwood.

⁴ Dictionary of Sydney- Homebush 2015

⁵ Fox and Assoc, 1986, Homebush Bay Heritage Study,p:5

⁶ 1:100,000 scale map of Soil Landscapes of the Sydney Region.

⁷ Douglas Partners August 2014

⁸ ibid

⁹ Steele and Carney 1997 p:13

¹⁰ Dictionary of Sydney – Homebush 2015

The vegetation fringing the mangrove and saltmarsh wetlands included *Casurina* (Swamp oak), *maleluca* (paper bark) and *leptospermum* (tea tree) species. In the late 19th century extensive salt marsh and mud flats dominated the estuary and mangrove was widespread. The silt and alluvial deposits from Powells and Haslams Creek and the original shoreline of the bay and river are now completely overlain by reclamation fill.¹¹

During the site visit the subject site's vegetation was observed to have a majority native tree canopy, with a native shrub midstorey and a native groundcover layer. Plantings within the car park consist of native grasses and shrubs and semi-mature *ficus*, Sheoak, Spotted Gum and Ironbark trees. The majority of plantings on the site are the result of landscaping during the 1980s and 90s.

The Aborist report identified three significant trees on the site which include a mature Morton Bay Fig on the western boundary and a mature Morton Bay Fig and Port Jackson Fig on the northeast corner (Fig and Australia Streets). These trees could be around 100 years old as they are present in 1943 aerial images of the site and appear to be mature specimens at that time.¹²

2.4 BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The topography of the subject site slopes down from the north west to the south east. The Badu Mangroves and Bicentennial Park are approximately 400 m to the east and the main Stadium (ANZ) is approximately 900m to the northwest. The present mix of venues, parkland and residential subdivision in the Homebush Bay area has occurred from the 1990s onwards.

FIGURE 3 – FRONT FAÇADE OF CURRENT BUILDING ON THE SITE



The subject site is zoned 'Mixed Use (B4)' under State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Development) with a residential use under Master Plan 2030 and is located to the southern side of Figtree Drive at the intersection with Australia Avenue. The site is bounded by Figtree Drive to the north, a rail corridor and Sarah Durack Avenue to the south, Australia Avenue to the east and an adjoining office

¹¹ Fox and Assoc, 1986,p:5

¹² Arboreport Vegetation Management Consultants June 2015

building and car park to the west. The site has an approximate area of 12,697 square metres and is legally described as Lot 22, DP 787402.

The site currently contains two buildings consisting of office/commercial and warehouse space, driveway, parking areas, paths and gardens. The buildings are located in the northern and eastern portions of the site with on-grade parking areas in the western and southern areas. The double storey, rendered concrete and glass offices were constructed in 1998 as the Corporate Headquarters for Homebush Bay and the NSW Lotteries Office. The building is now vacant.

The building that presents to Figtree Drive has been constructed below the level of the road with raised garden beds adjacent to Australia Avenue and Figtree Drive. The rear of the building steps down the slope to the car park. The car park is constructed in rows to the south and the east of the buildings with concrete paths providing access. A small section of undercover parking is provided at the rear of the building. The car park also contains lighting.

Plantings on the site consist of native trees shrubs and grasses planted around the site boundary and between the rows of the car park. A large grassed area presents to Australia Avenue which contains two mature fig trees. The landscape on the eastern and southern boundary has been terraced, cutting back the topography to accommodate roads, bridges and footpaths.

FIGURE 4 – COURTYARD BETWEEN THE TWO BUILDINGS



FIGURE 5 – REAR FAÇADE AND CAR PARK SHOWING LIGHTING AND UNDERCOVER PARKING



FIGURE 6 – REAR OF THE BUILDING STEPPING DOWN THE SITE



FIGURE 7 – EXTERNAL BUILDING AND CAR PARK



PICTURE 1 – REAR CAR PARK VIEW NORTH EAST



PICTURE 2 – REAR CAR PARK VIEW SOUTH WEST



PICTURE 3 – REAR FAÇADE AND CAR PARK



PICTURE 4 – COURT YARD BETWEEN THE TWO BUILDINGS



PICTURE 5 – COURTYARD BETWEEN TWO SECTIONS OF THE BUILDING



PICTURE 6 – NORTH EASTERN FAÇADE

FIGURE 8 – LANDSCAPING



PICTURE 7 – VIEW FROM AUSTRALIA AVE SHOWING CUTTING BACK OF THE LANDFORM FOR THE ROAD AND FOOTPATH



PICTURE 8 – THE MATURE *FICUS* ON AUSTRALIA AVE SHOWING TERRACING OF THE SLOPE



PICTURE 9 – ROADS, OVERHEAD BRIDGES AND FOOTPATHS ON THE EASTERN BOUNDARY



PICTURE 10 – RAISED NATURE STRIP ON FIGTREE DRIVE

3 Historical Overview

3.1 ABORIGINAL OCCUPATION

Sydney Olympic Park is situated on the traditional lands of the Wann clan, known as the Wann-gal. Their country originally extended from the suburbs of Birchgrove and Balmain in the east, to Silverwater and Auburn in the west with a northern boundary at the Parramatta River. The Wangal clan's neighbours were the Cadigal to the east, the Wategora to the west, the Wallumedegal to the north and the Bediagal to the south. All these clans are of the Darug tribe and spoke the coastal or Eora dialect of the Darug language. The Darug tribe's inland clans spoke a different dialect.¹³

It is not known how long the Wangal people lived around the Homebush area, but there is evidence that the Darug tribe lived in the Sydney area for at least 10,000 years. As the last Ice Age came to an end, rising seas submerged large areas of Sydney's old coast and river valleys, creating the harbour and river environment first seen by Europeans in 1788.¹⁴

Estimates of pre-contact population, language groups and territory are difficult to determine, due to disease, dislocation and violence which led to the demise of traditional lifestyles and the scarcity and unreliability of the early historical observations. The impact of diseases and massive social dislocation caused the Aboriginal population to decline rapidly after contact.

FIGURE 9 – 1811 SOUTHWEST VIEW OF PARRAMATTA IN NEW SOUTH WALES, ARTIST UNKNOWN



SOURCE: MUSEUM OF SYDNEY: MOS2005/17

Aboriginal people lived primarily in small family or clan based groups, which were associated with particular areas or places. Early settlers noted that Aboriginal people lived in extended family groups of 20–40 members. Ethnographic observations indicate that the Sydney Aborigines pursued a hunter-gatherer subsistence with an economy focused largely upon marine resources. These European observations also suggest that their toolkit was fashioned largely on organic materials, such as wood, bark, palm leaves, shell and bone. The use of stone by coastal Sydney Aboriginals does not figure

¹³ Fox and Assoc 1986 p:28

¹⁴ Dictionary of Sydney- Homebush 2015

prominently within the early European descriptions. This observation is employed, in conjunction with the fact that few suitable stone sources are known for the production of flaked stone implements or ground-stone axes along the coast.¹⁵

The Aboriginal population was generally considered peaceful. However as British settlers encroached on their land and reduced their food sources, Aboriginal people responded with armed resistance resulting in numerous skirmishes. Lieutenant-Governor Grose sent out small groups of armed soldiers to drive away the Aborigines from the vicinity of farms and there is evidence that violence was used against the Aboriginal population, but there is no record of how many Aborigines were killed during this period.¹⁶

Homebush Bay would have been an attractive location for Aboriginal occupation. The Parramatta River and wetland areas were abundant with fish, shellfish, crabs, birds and other aquatic species while the mangroves and the woodland provided timber and bark for making tools and other equipment for digging and carrying. Berries, fruit and flowers and tubers were also widely available. Several drainage channels extend through the study area, including Haslams and Powells Creek which would have provided a reliable source of fresh water beyond the tidal flow.

Physical evidence of the usage of the Homebush Bay area by Aboriginal people has been found in the form of a few isolated stone artefacts located at Newington Village and Newington Nature Reserve (see section 4.1.1). Aboriginal shell middens were known to have lined Homebush Bay and the Parramatta River, but were destroyed in the limekilns in the eighteenth and nineteenth century and subsequent alterations to the shoreline.

3.2 EUROPEAN CONTACT

Naval officer, Lt William Bradley of the *Sirius*, was the first European to provide a written account of Homebush Bay and its environs. He describes large expanses of mudflats with dense scrub and open forest further away from the water. From 1788 to 1831 blocks ranging from 100 to 10,000 acres were granted to ex-convicts, soldiers and settlers carved from the land of the Wanngal clan. Initially contact was limited to lost convicts and marines, and boats passing the site while travelling up Parramatta River. Smallpox claimed the lives of many Aboriginal people in the Sydney area and is likely to have severely changed cultural practices of the Wann-gal at Homebush Bay.¹⁷

Aboriginal people were still using the Homebush Bay area, even after their lands were granted to Europeans. Several encounters and conflicts between Europeans and Aboriginal people are documented for the Homebush Bay area throughout the 1790s, and in the early 1800s. Despite many small and large land grants in the area, the area remained largely uncleared until the 1850s and is likely to have had continued use by Aboriginal people. Aboriginal people were working for and trading fish with the Blaxland family at their Newington Estate on the Parramatta River. By the 1830s, Aboriginal people along the Parramatta River were living in small groups at several locations including across the river at Kissing Point (Ryde). This group, known to Europeans as the 'Kissing Point Tribe' may have included some Wann-gal people from Homebush Bay.¹⁸

The Olympic Games held at Sydney Olympic Park in 2000 had strong Aboriginal cultural themes in the opening ceremony and an Aboriginal culture and history pavilion at the Olympic site. Today Sydney Olympic Park is within the asserted traditional cultural boundary of the Darug language group, of which the Wanngal clan is said to have belonged. The descendants of Darug traditional owners of the Sydney area play a custodial role in the preservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage and are actively involved with archaeological and historical research in and around Homebush Bay. The area also falls within the administrative boundary of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council who also play a major role in the investigation and preservation of Aboriginal culture and heritage.¹⁹

¹⁵ Fox and Assoc 1986 p:35

¹⁶ Aboriginal History of Strathfield <http://strathfieldheritage.org/placenames>

¹⁷ <http://www.sopa.nsw.gov.au – indigenous history>

¹⁸ <http://www.sopa.nsw.gov.au – aboriginal timeline>

¹⁹ <http://www.sopa.nsw.gov.au – indigenous history>

3.3 EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT

Ten days after the establishment of the colony in Sydney Cove in 1788, a scouting party recorded the extensive tidal wetlands at Homebush Bay which they named "The Flats". Thomas Laycock was the first recipient of a land grant in the area when he acquired 40 hectares in 1794 and a further 40 hectares in 1795. By 1803, Laycock's estate totalled 318 hectares and was named Home Bush.²⁰

Additional early land grants in the area included 37 hectares granted to William Pritchard and eight partners in 1796, 20 hectares each to Henry Waterhouse (Waterhouse Farm) and John Shortland (Shortland Farm) in 1797, Isaac Archer was granted 32 hectares adjacent to Shortland's property in 1800 and Samuel Haslam received 20 hectares adjacent to Parramatta Road in 1806. The estates located in Homebush during the late eighteenth century were generally used for agricultural purposes.²¹

FIGURE 10 – LAND GRANTS IN THE PARISH OF CONCORD (ND)



SOURCE: SPATIAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE LPI 2015

²⁰ Auburn Council history 2015

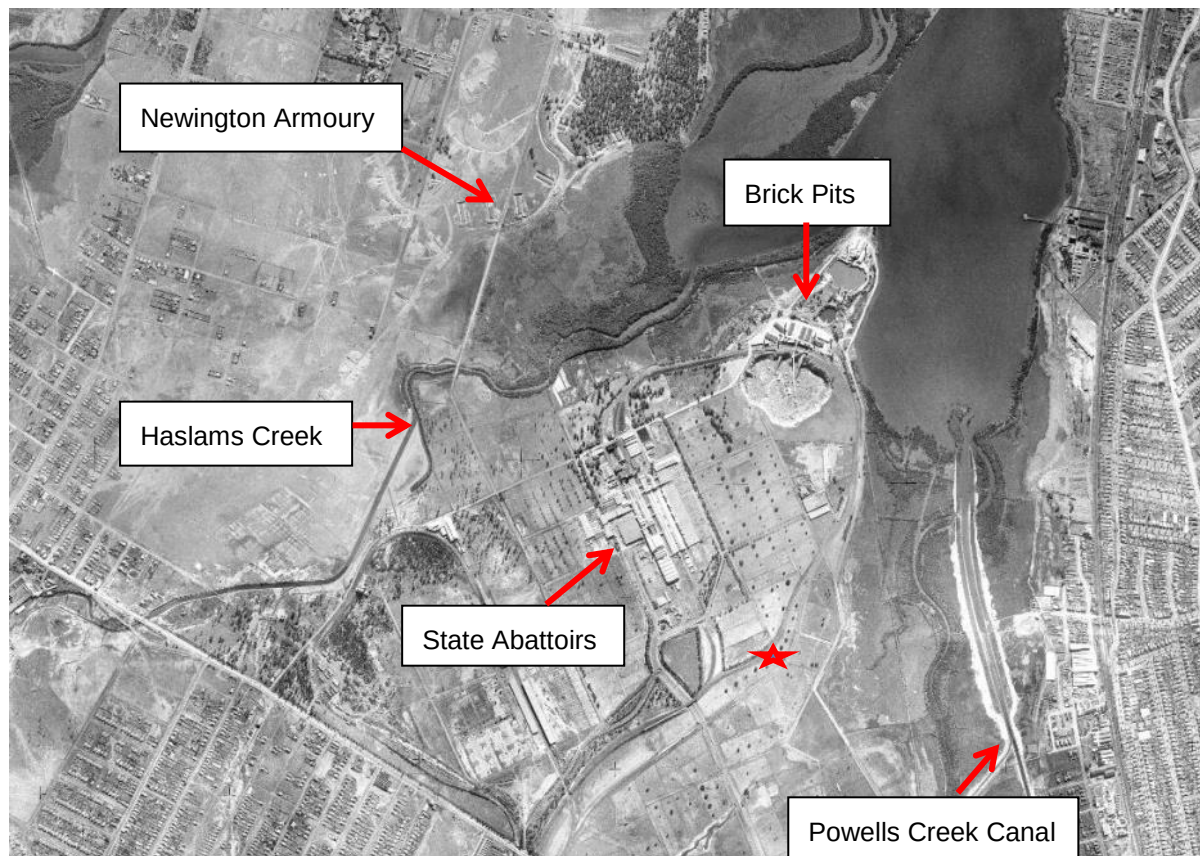
²¹ <http://www.sopa.nsw.gov.au> –Colonial History 2015

In 1807, John Blaxland acquired 520 hectares, reserving the grants of Waterhouse, Shortland, Archer and Haslam. He named the estate Newington after his family estate in Kent. Blaxland established a series of salt pans on the banks of the Parramatta River which provided salt for the Sydney market. Blaxland also established a tweed mill, lime kiln and flour mill. Newington House, the Blaxland family's home was completed in 1832 and St Augustine's Chapel, the family's chapel was built in 1838. Newington House still stands today within Silverwater Correctional Complex. The house is an excellent example of an early colonial, Regency-style villa.²²

D'Arcy Wentworth was granted 370 hectares in 1810 to the east of Blaxland's Newington Estate. In 1811, he established a horse stud on the property and subsequently acquired more land, including Thomas Laycock's Estate. By 1811, most of the land around Homebush Bay lay within these two large estates: the Newington Estate to the north of Haslams Creek and the Home Bush Estate between Haslams and Powells Creek. While the Newington Estate underwent clearing and timber-getting, including the establishment of a steam saw bench on the banks of Duck River in 1840, very little industry was practiced at the Homebush Estate. The large estates were for the most part undeveloped and remained as agricultural or pastoral properties until the late into the 19th century.

In the late 1870s and 1880s, Sydney's suburbs were expanding rapidly and it was hoped that the creation of a residential settlement between the large centres of Sydney and Parramatta would be a profitable exercise. From 1879 parts of the Newington estate was gradually purchased or resumed by the Crown for various uses. In 1882, land to the east of Newington House was resumed for the establishment of a powder magazine. Operations started in 1897, with the magazine being manned by the NSW Military Forces. It was later taken over by the Australian Navy and became known as the Royal Australian Naval Armament Depot (RANAD) Newington.

FIGURE 11 – THE SUBJECT SITE (STAR) IN RELATION TO THE ABATTOIRS, BRICK PIT AND NEWINGTON ARMOURY



SOURCE: 1943 SPATIAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE (SIX MAPS) LAND AND PROPERTY INFORMATION

²² Dictionary of Biography – John Blaxland

At the beginning of the 1900s, concerns that the public abattoir at Glebe Island was endangering the health of the general public were heightened following the outbreak of the plague in Sydney. In 1906 the Committee recommended the establishment of an abattoir at Homebush. In March 1907, the Government resumed 367 hectares of the Homebush Estate for the establishment of the new State Abattoir. Construction began in 1910 and comprised the erection of 44 slaughterhouses, administration buildings, stabling, by-products treatment buildings, latrines, drafting yards and roadways. The Abattoirs were officially opened in 1913 and employed up to 1600 men.²³

FIGURE 12 – STATE ABATTOIRS, HOMEBUSH 1969, THE SUBJECT SITE IS JUST OUT OF SHOT TO THE RIGHT



SOURCE: 1931 SLNSW GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 03856

In the 1930s, algal blooms were abundant in Homebush Bay because of the dumping of waste material from carcasses and sharks were attracted by effluent released into the river by the State Abattoir. Maintenance of the facility was a constant problem for the Abattoir administrators and the economic viability of the Abattoir declined until it was inevitably closed in June 1988. Many of the old buildings have now been demolished to make way for new facilities. The Olympic Stadium was built on the site of the former abattoir saleyards. The original Administration Building constructed in 1920 is a fine example of a Federation style commercial brick building which has been restored. Land was also resumed for the construction of a railway that formed a large loop to service the brick works and the abattoir.

In 1911, 9.5 hectares of land was resumed from the State Abattoir for the State Brickworks (Figure 11). By 1925, the brick works site comprised 23.5 hectares. There was a clay pit and kilns and sandstone was also excavated. The brickwork closed in 1940, but reopened after WWII. The brickworks ceased trading as a government enterprise in June 1988, although sandstone was still removed under royalties until 1992. The Clay pit operated as a municipal waste depot from the 1960s.

Paint, chemical and pesticide production commenced in the Homebush waterfront area in the 1920s. The 1950s saw a huge push to create more waterfront industrial land. Dredging from the Parramatta River filled in large areas of mangrove forest but by the early 1980s Homebush Bay had become a large tract of neglected land, which was bypassed as Sydney sprawled westward. The environmental impact of

²³ <http://www.sopa.nsw.gov.au> –Industrial History 2015

pollution, wetland reclamation and landfilling has been significant. Over half the existing land area, originally consisting of saltmarshes and wetlands, has been progressively reclaimed.

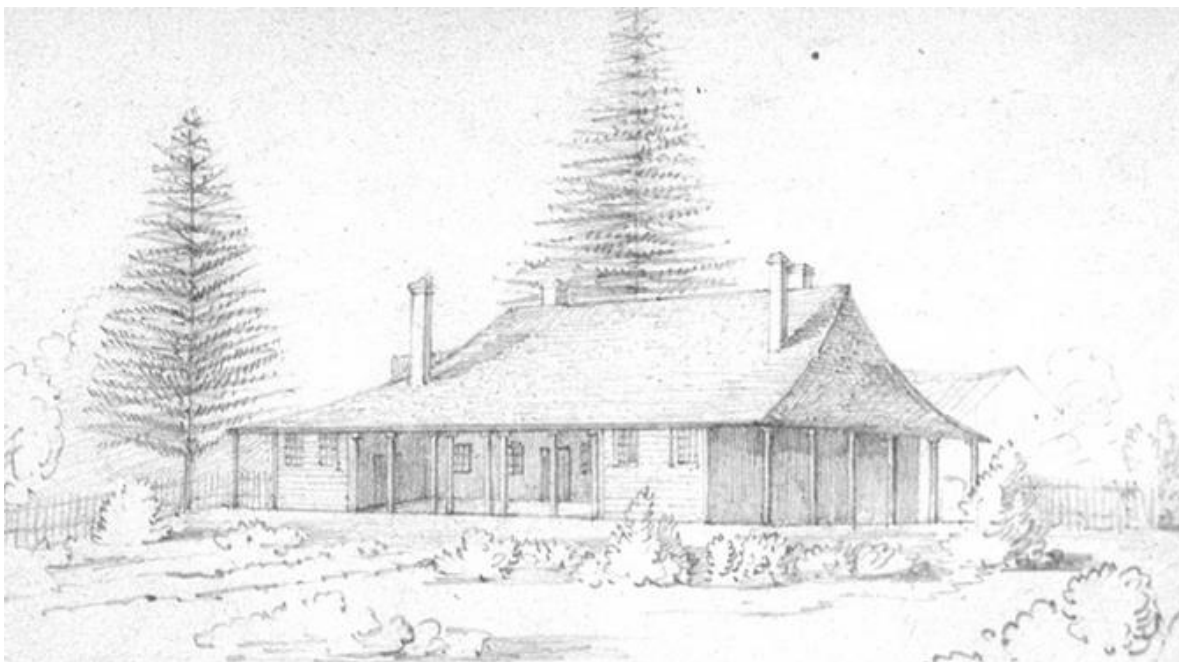
By 1988 there was an estimated 9 million cubic metres of waste and contaminated soils spread over 400 hectares within the 760 hectare site. The Homebush Bay Development Corporation, which pre-dated Sydney's bid for the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games, was established to oversee the urban renewal of Homebush Bay. The remediation and renewal of the area commenced in 1991 and was scheduled for completion in 2000. The success of the bid significantly increased the pace and scope of development within the area and became one of Australia's largest urban renewal projects. From 1995, the Olympic Coordination Authority (OCA) became responsible for the planning, urban development and management of the area and facilities for the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games.²⁴

3.1 THE SUBJECT SITE

The subject site is located on land originally granted to D'Arcy Wentworth in 1811. Wentworth emigrated to Australia in 1790 on the Second Fleet convict ship *Neptune* where he served as assistant surgeon. On his arrival in Sydney he was made Superintendent of Convicts on Norfolk Island, in Parramatta and Sydney. Wentworth rapidly added to his original grant and built a large family home on the estate which was situated north of the Parramatta Road between Haslam's (or Hacking) Creek and Powell's Creek in the Parish of Concord (Figure 13).

Wentworth is likely to have had a sizable workforce employed as the property was described in 1825 as having numerous small houses constructed near the main house and the surrounding land was completely cleared. Wentworth was involved in beef production and in 1818 he advertised for workers to manage his increasing herds and to burn 100,000 bricks on his property. In 1819 he was granted an additional 27 acres adjoining his original grant and by 1825 Wentworth's property comprised 920 acres.²⁵ The following year he had constructed a race track, was draining swamps and constructing embankments and retaining walls in an attempt to reclaim more land.²⁶

FIGURE 13 – HOMEBUSH NEAR SYDNEY, NSW (REAR VIEW) - WENTWORTH'S HOUSE



SOURCE: LOUISA ANNE MEREDITH, 1812-1895, W.L. CROWTHER LIBRARY, LINC TASMANIA

²⁴ <http://www.sopa.nsw.gov.au> - assests

²⁵ Australian Dictionary of Biography – D'Arcy Wentworth

²⁶ Fox and Assoc 1986 p:118

D'Arcy Wentworth died in 1827 and left his property to his son Charles Wentworth, who had been a member of the exploration party to find a route through the Blue Mountains. The property was tenanted throughout Charles' ownership. Wentworth's Homebush House, considerably less grand than Blaxland's Newington, consisted of a weatherboard house with a brick bakehouse/kitchen and was surrounded by stock yards, barns, a stable, piggery, huts for the workers and a well. The well was sealed in 1840 and water was supplied from large holes in the clay pits.²⁷

Louisa Meredith rented the property in the 1830s and described it as dilapidated but comfortable with two good rooms and five smaller ones, a neatly flagged veranda at the front 100 feet long and 12 feet wide, which wrapped around the entire building. The back of the building had two small wings with a garden between. The main house was located on the highest hill on the estate which by 1841 was completely cleared, 'not one tree in hundreds of acres' apart from three magnificent Norfolk Island Pines adjacent to the house and the remaining fruit trees from an extensive orchard. The surrounding land was divided into fields with post and rail fencing.²⁸

Homebush House was accessed from Parramatta Road by a curving road nearly half a mile long and 20 yards wide. It was located in approximately the centre of the site, near the current administration buildings of the State Abattoir and was demolished during their construction. Between 1841 and 1860 the race track was used as the headquarters of the Australian Jockey Club. In 1860 the Australian Jockey Club moved to Randwick and the property remained a training ground and horse stud with 'spelling paddocks' and stock holding yards.²⁹ Today, the Tennis Centre, Sports Centre and Hockey Centre stand on the former racecourse.³⁰

Homebush Estate consisted of 440 hectares in 1881 with the addition of areas drained and reclaimed from around Powells and Haslams Creek. In 1883, Fitzwilliam Wentworth, Charles' son, registered a residential subdivision which affected the eastern half of the Wentworth Estate and extended from Parramatta Road in the south to the Parramatta River in the north. The subdivision comprised of some 22 large, irregularly shaped lots on a curvilinear scheme and was named the Homebush Village. This proposal was unsuccessful with only a few of the allotments on Parramatta road selling, and Wentworth's estate remained virtually intact until its resumption by the Public Works Department in 1907 for the establishment of the State Abattoirs.

Photographic evidence demonstrates that some of the buildings that made up Wentworth's homestead in Homebush were still standing in 1912 (Figure 14). The photograph dated 1917 where the house is still standing is possibly dated incorrectly. Generally, some sort of evidence of the homestead and associated outbuildings, fencing, trees and access roads should be evident in the landscape many years after they were demolished. There is no evidence of the building in the area from the 1943 aerial photograph. This suggests that the homestead was not located on or in the vicinity of the subject site.

All parish maps available for the subject site indicate the land on which the subject site is located had been cleared but had not been developed. The areas of construction and landscaping were located close to the main house and the rest of the estate was cleared but completely undeveloped. Wentworth's house and racetrack suffered passive gradual decay and were not marked on the 1916 parish map (Figure 15).

The 1916 Parish map (Figure 15) shows Figtree Drive as an oval shaped road near the subject site. It appears to be associated with the Abattoirs and does not appear on any other plans. By 1943 the aerial photographs show the extensive development of the State Abattoirs, but no evidence of Figtree Drive or any indication that land near the subject site had been used for any other purpose other than pastoral/agricultural. (Figure 16) The current Figtree Drive is likely to be named after the earlier road but it is not the same configuration or in the same location.

²⁷ ibid p:159

²⁸ ibid p:118

²⁹ Ibid P:37

³⁰ Ibid <http://www.sopa.nsw.gov.au> –Colonial History 2015

FIGURE 14 – WENTWORTH'S HOMESTEAD

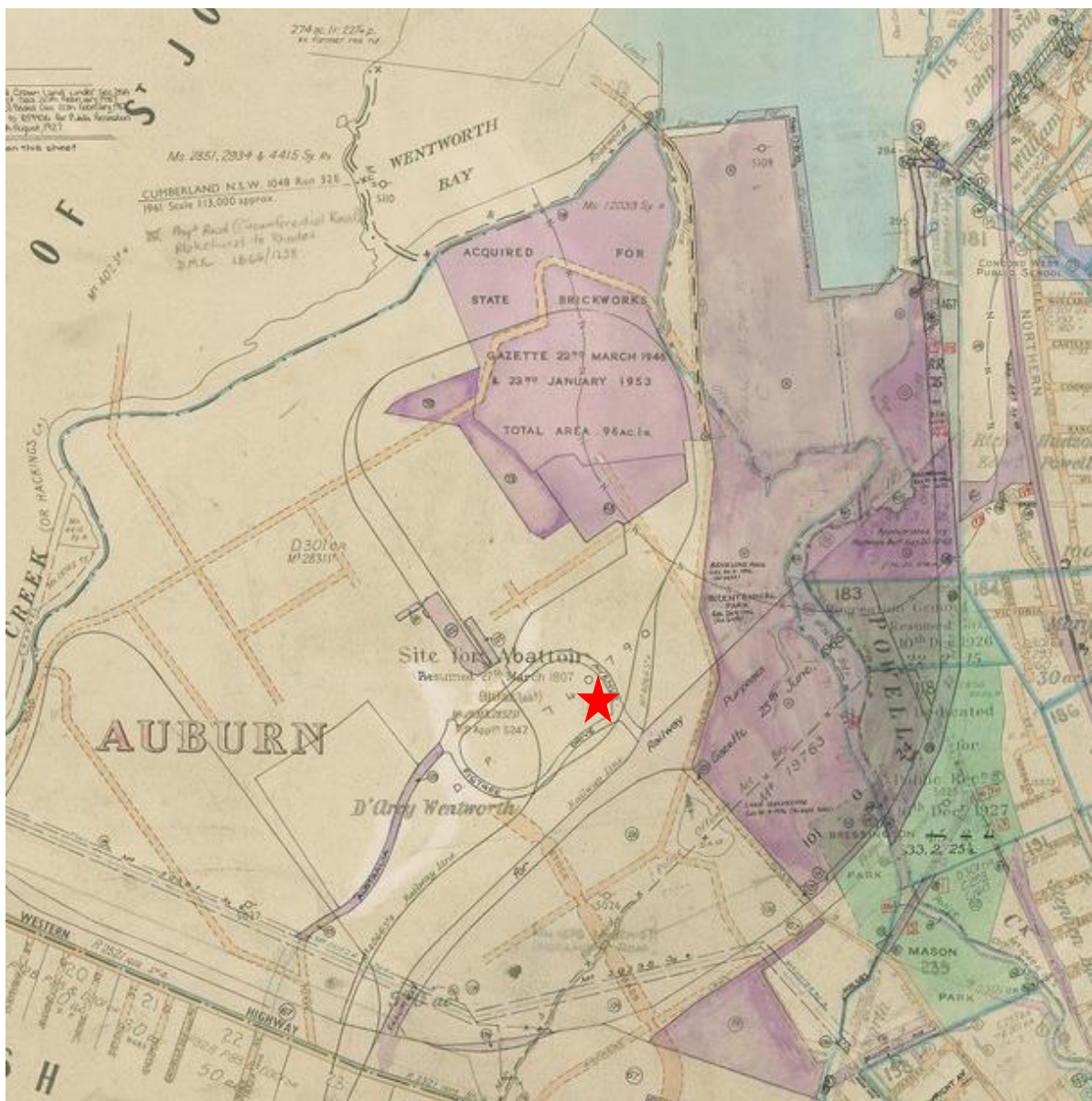


PICTURE 11 – 1917 SOURCE: SLNSW GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1 – 18739



PICTURE 12 – 1912 HOME OF D'ARCY WENTWORTH BY FRANK WALKER SOURCE: RAHS

FIGURE 15 – 1916 PARISH MAP -WENTWORTH'S PROPERTY RESUMED FOR THE ABATTOIRS AND BRICK WORKS. NOTE THE RAILWAY LOOP AND FIGTREE DRIVE WITH THE SUBJECT SITE INDICATED.



SOURCE: SPATIAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE (SIX MAPS) LAND AND PROPERTY INFORMATION 2015

The documentary research, parish maps and the aerial photography demonstrate that the site has generally been used for agricultural/pastoral purposes and was owned by the Wentworth family until the transfer of title to the State Abattoirs in 1907. The estate had been subject to disturbance including clearing and land reclamation, however after the construction of the abattoirs, brick pits and various other industry, the estate was subject to the construction of access roads and tracks, a railway line, large areas of clearance and subdivision for residential and recreational use, essential services such as electricity transmission lines, telecommunications cables and water management. More recently, contamination remediation and the construction of the Sydney Olympic Park venues has resulted in widespread landscape modification.

FIGURE 16 – 1943 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH WITH LOCATION OF SITE IN RED.



SOURCE: SPATIAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE (SIX MAPS) LAND AND PROPERTY INFORMATION 2015

Aboriginal and historical archaeological survey and testing of the subject site was undertaken in 1997 by the Carney and Steele. These images (Figure 17) clearly demonstrate the condition of the site prior to the construction of the current building. In 1997 the site was a cleared and grassed area, generally flat and containing a few mature trees. The site has since been developed which has included extensive below ground works and benching of the site for the current buildings and car park.

FIGURE 17 – 1997-VIEW OF THE SUBJECT SITE PRIOR TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CURRENT BUILDINGS



PICTURE 13 – VIEW NORTHWEST SOURCE: CARNEY AND STEELE 1997



PICTURE 14 – VIEW SOUTHEAST SOURCE: CARNEY AND STEELE 1997

3.2 SUMMARY OF LAND USE

Table 1 lists owners of the subject property and land use from known historical records.

TABLE 1 – PROPERTY OWNERS

DATE	OWNER	DISCUSSION
1810	D'Arcy Wentworth	Land grant 370 acres. Construction of a weatherboard house and associated out buildings and access tracks
1811	D'Arcy Wentworth	Establishment of a horse stud
1819	D'Arcy Wentworth	Additional acres granted
1825	D'Arcy Wentworth	Establishment of a race track
1826	D'Arcy Wentworth	Drainage of swamps and reclamation
1883	Fitzwilliam Wentworth	Land offered for subdivision and sale, access roads created
1907	Fitzwilliam Wentworth	State Government Land resumes 367 hectares of land from the Homebush Estate for the State Abattoirs.
1911	State Government/Public Works Department	9.5 hectares of land was resumed from the State Abattoir for the State Brickworks. Access roads and buildings constructed
1916	State Government/Public Works Department	Access roads, railway growth and development and buildings constructed for the abattoir and continued development. Wentworth's house demolished
1991	Homebush Bay Development Corporation	Established to oversee the urban renewal of Homebush Bay. Remediation and contamination works begin.
1995	Olympic Coordination Authority (OCA)	Responsible for the planning, urban development and management of the area and facilities for the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Large scale land modification, landscaping, roads and infrastructure.
2001	Sydney Olympic Park Authority (SOPA)	Established to manage the public assets of Sydney Olympic Park - open space, venues, parklands and development areas.

4 Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment

4.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The following section includes all known Aboriginal archaeology of the study area and the vicinity based upon a review of relevant archaeological reports and publications and a search and review of previously recorded sites from Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS). This information allows for the development of a predictive model for potential Aboriginal sites within the study area.

Aboriginal occupation of the Sydney basin is likely to have spanned at least 20,000 years. Late Pleistocene occupation sites have been identified on the fringes of the Sydney basin and from rock shelter sites in adjoining areas. However the majority of sites in the Sydney region date to within the last 3,000 to 5,000 years, with many researchers proposing that occupation intensity increased from this period (Kohen 1986; McDonald 1994; McDonald and Rich 1993). Such an increase in occupation intensity may have been influenced by rising sea levels, which stabilised approximately 6,500 years ago.³¹

A study of the Sydney region reveals that Aboriginal sites are distributed across the whole range of topographic units and environmental zones. Shell middens are common in the Port Jackson region in areas where shellfish are available around the shores of bays, rivers, harbours and the coast. The archaeological record of the coast and rivers is different to that of the Cumberland Plain of Sydney, partly because of the different resources in these areas.³²

Prior to European settlement, the study area is likely to have been a rich ecological zone which provided both an abundant and a diverse variety of food resources. A range of different resource habitats were likely to have been readily accessible to Aboriginal groups living within the region. These variable habitats include the riverine areas of Parramatta and Duck River and their tributaries, significant creek-lines including Haslams and Powells Creek, wetland areas of mangrove and saltmarsh and a variety of open and woodland terrestrial zones situated within the more elevated areas.

A review of the environmental context (Section 2) suggests that resources, including water, flora and fauna and raw material sources, would have been available in and around the study area. Topographically, the study area would have been easily accessed by foot and from the water. Physical evidence of Aboriginal use of the Newington area has been found in the form of isolated stone artefacts. Rock shelter sites, art sites, rock engravings and axe grinding grooves are associated with the Hawkesbury Sandstone formation and are not located in the subject site.³³

On the basis of the location of recorded sites, it appears likely that Aboriginal people camped on drier, more elevated ground while collecting plant foods and shellfish, fishing and hunting game. In the absence of rock shelters occurring within the immediate study-site, bark shelters are likely to have been used.³⁴ Archaeological and ethnohistorical evidence from the Sydney region indicates that the economy of the Aboriginal inhabitants of the study area at the time of Contact is likely to have been marine orientated. It is probable that certain species of both fish and shellfish were seasonally available. Fish appear to have been generally speared or taken by line. Traps and stone weirs may also have been employed. Shellfish were gathered and carried, along with other articles, in net bags. Other foods resources such as crabs would also have been sought within the mangroves and saltmarshes.³⁵

The extent to which Aborigines used birds and larger terrestrial animals as a food resource is not fully understood. However, it is probable that the extensive wetlands of the study area would have been important to a wide variety of both migratory and resident birds and the woodlands supported kangaroos, wallabies, koalas, possums, bats and reptiles.

³¹ AMBS 2012 p:12

³² Attenbrow 1990 p:30

³³ AMBS 2012 p:14

³⁴ Fox & Associates 1986

³⁵ AMBS 2012 p:14

Raw materials for the production of stone-tools for example, quartz pebbles of a sufficient size, may have been procured from the adjacent river and creek-lines. To the west of the study area, on the Cumberland Plain, shale ridges are known to contain silcrete outcrops.³⁶ Based upon the occurrence of silcrete in large quantities within numerous sites which have been investigated in the Cumberland Plain region, this raw material appears to have been extensively used for tool manufacture.³⁷

A search of the AHIMS database was undertaken on 29 June 2015. Lot : 22, DP:DP787402 with a Buffer of 1000 meters contained **no** registered Aboriginal sites. The search results are presented in Appendix 1.

4.2 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

There have been a number of archaeological investigations of the study area and its vicinity.

Helen Brayshaw, March 1997, Olympic Village Site, Newington, Homebush Bay, Aboriginal Archaeology, Report to MIRVAC Village Consortium

Brayshaw surveyed the Olympic Village Site and Newington in 1997. No Aboriginal sites were found and previous isolated artefacts identified by Rich³⁸ were unable to be located. Some unmodified silcrete was identified in the area of sensitivity identified by Rich. A high level of disturbance was noted on the lower slopes west of Haslams Creek and near armament stores, with landfill seen on the flat adjacent to the creek.

Brayshaw stated that lack of silcrete over the entire Olympic Village and Newington site suggests that the material may not have been accessible to Aborigines there as a source, and has only been exposed by disturbance. Brayshaw concluded that the area was not archaeologically sensitive, as the disturbance was too great to allow any meaningful interpretation of Aboriginal use of the area, or to offer the possibility of further information being gained from subsurface investigation. Feedback from MLALC indicated their desire to monitor excavations for construction works in the vicinity of the previously identified artefacts.

Dominic Steele & Martin Carney Archaeological Management & Consulting Group Pty. September 1997, Aboriginal Heritage, Australia Avenue, Fig Tree Circuit, 2000 Olympic Site, Homebush, N.S.W. For The Olympic Co-Ordination Authority.

Steele and Carney surveyed the subject site in 1997 prior to the construction of the current building. The site was at that time functioning as a truck parking area. No evidence for Aboriginal use of the site was identified during the field-survey, however, archaeological visibility within the surveyed areas was poor. The investigations found that a Pre-European ground surface was likely to survive within the surveyed areas obscured by introduced fills and/or recently developed European soil-profiles. It was recommended that any impact to these subsurface areas be monitored for the presence of Aboriginal artefacts.

Note: Subsequent development works on the site to construct the current buildings involved site clearance and preparation, cut and fill excavation, levelling and grading, and subsequent construction works and service installation. These works are likely to have disturbed or destroyed any Pre-European ground surface.

Paul Irish, April 2004, Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment Report Newington Armory Adaptive Re-Use and Rail Extension Project, Sydney Olympic Park, NSW. Report to the Sydney Olympic Park Authority.

Irish surveyed the woodland and nature reserve buffer zone of the Newington Armory Precinct in 2003. He established that the trees within the woodland were of insufficient age to contain scars of Aboriginal cultural origin and he determined that the scarred trees identified in previous studies were not Aboriginal in origin. Surface visibility was generally low, but during the survey three isolated silcrete and chert artefacts and two potential archaeological deposits (PAD) were identified. Possible silcrete manuports

³⁶ Fox & Associates 1986

³⁷ AMBS 2012 p:16

³⁸ Rich, E. 1985 Archaeological Sites In Parramatta River Heritage Study. Report by Don Fox & Associates to NSW Department of Environment and Planning.

(stone material thought to have been transported to the area by Aboriginal people) were also identified. However, the Aboriginal origin of the presence of these silcrete pieces could not be confirmed. Irish states that the lack of archaeological material is likely to be a reflection of the early urban development of the Parramatta River, which would have precluded the preservation of sites and the necessity for archaeological assessment; rather than an indication of less intense Aboriginal occupation of the area.

AMBS, January 2012, Newington Armament Depot & Nature Reserve, Sydney Olympic Park, Aboriginal Heritage Assessment. Prepared for Tanner Architects Pty Ltd.

The purpose of the survey was to verify the location of previously recorded sites within the study area, if possible, to inspect the area for any new archaeological sites and to identify the potential for archaeologically sensitive areas to be present within the Newington area. There are five registered AHIMS sites within the Newington Armament Depot & Nature Reserve study area, which have been assessed as being of low significance, and no new Aboriginal sites or areas of Aboriginal heritage sensitivity were identified during the survey. This confirms the predictive model, and was expected given the early development of the area of the Armoury.

Given the extent of disturbance to the original land surface within the study area, it is considered that only the woodland area of the Newington Nature Reserve has any archaeological potential for Aboriginal heritage deposits. No Aboriginal cultural issues or sensitivities were identified for the study area by a representative of the MLALC.

4.3 ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Environmental factors represent some of the more important determinants which influence the nature and distribution of archaeological sites across the landscape. The analysis of environmental factors contributes to the development of the predictive modelling of archaeological sites, but it is also required to contextualise archaeological material and to interpret patterns of past human behaviour.

Resource distribution and availability such as the presence of drinking water, plant and animal foods, raw materials of stone, wood and vegetable fibre used for tool production and maintenance is strongly influenced by the nature of soils, the composition of vegetation cover and the climatic characteristics of a given region. The location of site-types such as open camp-sites and middens are strongly influenced by these factors, which are specific to different land systems and bedrock geologies. Understanding the environmental context of any given region is therefore an integral component necessary to modelling past Aboriginal land-use practices and/or predicting site distribution patterns within any given landscape.³⁹

Current land use practices have the potential to affect the visibility of archaeological material; they may obscure, or expose archaeological sites. In addition, previous disturbances may have also exposed archaeological material, such as excavation for dams or other ground disturbance. It is important that such factors are also considered in making assessments of archaeological resources in an area and understanding the distribution of observed sites. The majority of registered AHIMS sites in the region of the study area are stone artefact sites and middens, which occur along Sydney Harbour.⁴⁰

Aboriginal occupation was often focussed on prominent landforms such as ridges, which were favourable locations for camping and travelling, and from which surrounding plant and animal resources could be viewed. However, they also camped on lower, elevated areas adjacent to reliable water sources, such as the Parramatta River. The subject site is located on high ground approximately 600m to the west of Powells Creek and the same distance to the mangroves of Homebush Bay.

The land was extensively cleared before the 1840s resulting in the loss of the original topsoil. In addition, given the extensive disturbance to the original land surface within the current study area, it is considered that the site does not have any archaeological potential for Aboriginal heritage deposits. The site is not expected to contain Aboriginal cultural objects as the excavation and development of the site would have removed such items.

³⁹ Carney and Steele 1997 p:12

⁴⁰ AMBS 2101 p:16

5 Historic Archaeological Assessment

5.1 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

Dominic Steele & Martin Carney Archaeological Management & Consulting Group Pty. September 1997, Aboriginal Heritage, Australia Avenue, Fig Tree Circuit, 2000 Olympic Site, Homebush, N.S.W. For The Olympic Co-Ordination Authority.

Steele and Carney surveyed the subject site in 1997 prior to the construction of the current building. The site was at that time functioning as a truck parking area. The site was surveyed for Aboriginal archaeological remains, but had previously been subject to historic archaeological assessment and survey. (A copy of the historical report has not been found, but the results are discussed in the Aboriginal report).

The investigations found that the original topsoil had appeared to have eroded away and some filling or addition of soils had occurred in some areas. Excavations in two areas of the subject site identified cutting and filling, very few historic artefacts and no evidence of structures. There was no evidence that Homebush homestead was ever located on the site.

5.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

Historical archaeology is the study of the past using physical evidence in conjunction with historical sources. It focuses on the objects used by people in the past and the places where they lived and worked. It can tell us about the way things were made and used and how people lived their daily lives. Archaeology is not just about objects and remains. It is also about landscapes and links between sites. Archaeology is assessed in two ways, the potential for the site to retain an archaeological resource and the significance of that resource.

Archaeological Potential is defined as:

The degree of physical evidence present on an archaeological site, usually assessed on the basis of physical evaluation and historical research. Common units for describing archaeological potential are:

- known archaeological features/sites (high archaeological potential);
- potential archaeological features/sites (medium archaeological potential);
- no archaeological features/sites (low archaeological potential).⁴¹

D'Arcy Wentworth built a house and racetrack somewhere within his vast 920 acre property, but there is little indication of where these may have been located. Photographic evidence demonstrates that some of the buildings that made up Wentworth's homestead in Homebush were still standing in at least 1912. Generally, some sort of evidence of the homestead and associated outbuildings, well, fencing, garden, trees and access roads should be evident in the landscape many years after they were demolished. The 1943 aerial photograph shows no evidence of any previous buildings in the area, which suggests Wentworth's house was not located on or in the vicinity of the subject site. Fox suggests that the homestead was located where the current administration buildings are now constructed.⁴²

According to documentary and photographic evidence, it is unlikely that any improvements were made to the subject site prior to the construction of the current buildings apart from the addition of levelling material. Carney and Steele undertook a survey and test excavation on the site in 1997 and found that the general topography remained unimpaired however the original topsoil had eroded and existing ground

⁴¹ Department of Urban Affairs and Planning 1996

⁴² Fox & Associates 1986 p:159

surface is largely an introduced, or reformed top soil. Excavations in two areas of the subject site identified cutting and filling, very few artefacts and no evidence of structures.⁴³

The site has since been developed which has included extensive below ground works and benching of the site for the current buildings and car park. There is no evidence of previous structures, roads or topographic features and only the mature fig trees provide an indication of the original ground level. The building that presents to Figtree Drive has been constructed below the level of the road and below the level of the fig tree on the corner of Australia Avenue and Figtree Drive. This indicates considerable excavation and modification to the site. The landscape on the southern and eastern boundaries has been terraced, cutting back the topography to accommodate roads, bridges and footpaths. It was therefore considered that there is no historic archaeological potential for the subject site.

5.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

In NSW the process of finding out whether an item is important is called assessing significance.

Archaeological sites, which contain 'relics' as defined in the NSW Heritage Act, are managed like any other significant item of environmental heritage. They should be treated in the same way with the same level of consideration and assessment process as any other surviving physical evidence of the past such as buildings, works, precincts, landscapes or other places and items with potential or known heritage value. Significance is thus an expression of the cultural value afforded a place, site or item.

The Heritage Council of NSW has developed a set of seven criteria for assessing heritage significance, which can be used to make decisions about the heritage value of a place or item. These include Historic, Social, Associative, Aesthetic, Scientific/Technical, Rarity and Representative.

Archaeological significance has long been accepted as linked directly to archaeological (or scientific) research potential:

*A site or resource is said to be scientifically significant when its further study may be expected to help answer questions. That is scientific significance is defined as research potential.*⁴⁴

There are two levels of heritage significance used in NSW: State and local.

Criterion (a) Historic Significance – an item is important in the course or pattern in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the local area);

The site is part of an early land grant to the D'Arcy Wentworth who was the patriarch of a wealthy and successful family. The land was held by the family for around 100 years, cleared but was not developed to any extent. The Wentworths constructed a race track and a homestead on their property, but neither was located on the subject site. The site is unlikely to contain an archaeological resource of historical importance.

Criterion (b) Associative Significance - 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 local area);

Although land in the area was part of Wentworth's grant and has been used for the State Abattoir and the Sydney Olympic Games, the subject site and any archaeological resource is not strongly associated with any prominent individuals or historical events and the land appears to have been vacant until 1998. The site is unlikely to contain an archaeological resource associated with the Wentworth family, or the State Abattoirs.

⁴³ Carney and Steele 1997 p:30

⁴⁴ Heritage Branch 2009 Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and Relics (Bickford and Sullivan, 1984 pp 23–24).p:8

Criterion (c) Aesthetic Significance - an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area);

Any archaeological resource remaining on the site would have little potential for aesthetic significance and would not be important at demonstrating aesthetic characteristics or a high degree of creative or technical achievement.

Criterion (d) Social Significance an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons (or the local area);

The archaeological resource may be of interest to those that have an interest in local history, however the site is unlikely to contain an archaeological resource.

Criterion (e) Scientific/Technical Significance - an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the local area);

Historical archaeological material may demonstrate change over time and perhaps preferences, taste or availability of certain items. The site is, however, highly disturbed and there is low archaeological potential for evidence to survive relating to the use of the land prior to the construction of the current building.

Criterion (f) an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the local area);

An archaeological resource relating to the early occupation of the site would be rare, however there is unlikely to be an archaeological resource on the site.

Criterion (g) an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places or cultural or natural environments (or the local area).

Any archaeological resource remaining in the site would be representative of clearing and pastoral activities.

Integrity

Historic documentation demonstrates that the subject site was undeveloped for much of its history. In addition recent development of the site is considered to have disturbed the site. There is low archaeological potential for evidence to survive relating to Aboriginal or historic use of the land prior to the construction of the current building in 1998.

5.3.1 LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Documentary evidence for the history of the site includes a range of photographic images, parish maps, historical descriptions and technical reports. The historical analysis undertaken for the site reveals that the potential for evidence of previous development within the site is low. It appears that there were never any structures or significant activity on the subject site in the past. Due to level of disturbance the site has experienced over time, it is considered that the site is unlikely to contain intact or even partially intact evidence relating to original topography or agricultural land use prior to the construction of the current building.

Evidence relating to the Wentworth occupation of the house, the associated outbuildings, site configuration, race track or land use would be of local significance given the early date of the building and the historical importance of its owner. However there is little likelihood that the house or race track were located on the subject site. There is low potential for the site to contain an archaeological resource that predates the current 1998 buildings. Land use and activities undertaken at the site in the past are unlikely to be rare or representative in terms of extent, nature or integrity.

Previous archaeological investigations on the site has demonstrated that there was little potential for the site to contain a historic archaeological resource. Development of the site in 1998 resulted in extensive modifications to the original levels and the site is considered to have no archaeological potential or significance. The site is unlikely to contribute knowledge that no other site or resource can nor will it be

relevant to general questions about human history or other substantive questions relating to Australian history.

Any evidence relating to the occupation of the site by Aboriginal people or the Wentworth family would be of local significance.

As the site is considered to have low potential for the presence of Aboriginal or historical archaeological resource the site is not considered to be significant.

5.4 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The historical analysis undertaken for 2 Figtree Drive reveals that the potential for archaeological remains to survive within the subject site is low. In addition, due to the level of disturbance the site has experienced during the construction of the current building, it is considered that the site is unlikely to contain an intact or even partially intact archaeological resource.

There is little potential for the site to contain an archaeological resource that has the ability to demonstrate a way of life, taste, function, custom or process of particular interest. The land has not been identified as having any particular historical value and the site has little connections with historically important events. Land use and activities undertaken at the site are unlikely to be rare or representative in terms of extent, nature or integrity.

6 Statutory Controls

6.1 NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

In 2004, a new Commonwealth heritage management system was introduced under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The National Heritage List (NHL) was established to protect places that have outstanding value to the nation. The Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL) was established to protect items and places owned or managed by Commonwealth agencies. The Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPC) is responsible for the implementation of national policy, programs and legislation to protect and conserve Australia's environment and heritage and to promote Australian arts and culture. Approval from the Minister is required for controlled actions which will have a significant impact on items and places included on the NHL or CHL.

The Sydney Olympic Park is not included on the NHL or the CHL, nor are there any Aboriginal heritage or historic heritage items in or within the vicinity of the study area which are listed on the NHL or the CHL.

6.2 STATE LEGISLATION

NSW Heritage Act 1977

The *NSW Heritage Act 1977* (the Heritage Act) provides protection to items of environmental heritage in NSW. This includes places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects and precincts identified as significant based on historical, social, aesthetic, scientific, archaeological, architectural, cultural or natural values. State significant items are listed on the NSW State Heritage Register (SHR) and are given automatic protection under the Heritage Act against any activities that may damage an item or affect its heritage significance.

The Heritage Act also protects 'relics', which can include archaeological material, features and deposits. Section 4(1) of the Heritage Act (as amended 2009) defines 'relic' as:

"relic means any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that:

(a) relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and

(b) is of State or local heritage significance."

Section 139(1) of the Heritage Act states that:

"A person must not disturb or excavate any land knowingly or having reasonable cause to suspect that the disturbance or excavation will, or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, damaged or destroyed unless the disturbance or excavation is carried out in accordance with an excavation permit."

Permits to disturb or excavate 'relics' are issued by the NSW Heritage Council or a Delegate of the NSW Heritage Council under Section 140 (for relics not protected by an SHR listing) or Section 60 (for relics protected by an SHR listing) of the Heritage Act. Exceptions or exemptions to these permits may be applicable under certain conditions.

The Heritage Act also requires government agencies to identify and manage heritage assets in their ownership and control. Under Section 170 of the Heritage Act, Government agencies must keep a register which includes all local and State listed items or items which may be subject to an interim heritage order that are owned, occupied or managed by that Government body. Under Section 170A of the Heritage Act all government agencies must also ensure that items entered on its register are maintained with due diligence in accordance with State Owned Heritage Management Principles.

Three items in the vicinity of the subject site are listed in the SHR including Newington Armament Depot and Nature Reserve (item 01850), The Olympic Cauldron (item 01839) and the Hall of Champions moveable collection (item 01295).

In relation to Aboriginal heritage, the heritage listing entry notes:

Evidence of the use of Homebush Bay by Aboriginal people has been found. Middens originally were present along the shores of the Parramatta River and Homebush Bay however these were substantially disturbed when used for lime making. Past reports have referenced the existence of physical evidence of Aboriginal occupation on the subject site as isolated artefact scatters and scarred trees (Brooks p22, 23). However these findings have since been questioned in further studies. (Irish 2004) Further, one of the historic themes identified for the site is Land tenure – Activities and processes for identifying forms of ownership and occupancy of land and water, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal.

There are no other Aboriginal heritage items or places within the vicinity of the study area listed on the SHR.

National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974 (Amended 2010) and National Parks & Wildlife Amendment Regulation 2010

Under the provisions of the *National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act), the Director-General of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS; now OEH) is responsible for the care, control and management of all national parks, historic sites, nature reserves, state conservation areas, karst conservation reserves and regional parks. The Director-General is also responsible, under this legislation, for the protection and care of native fauna and flora, and Aboriginal places and objects throughout NSW.

All Aboriginal Objects are protected regardless of their significance or land tenure under the NPW Act. Aboriginal Objects can include pre-contact features such as scarred trees, middens and open campsites, as well as physical evidence of post-contact use of the area such as Aboriginal built fencing and fringe camps. The NPW Act also protects Aboriginal Places, which are defined as 'is or was of special significance with respect to Aboriginal culture'. Aboriginal Places can only be declared by the Minister administering the NPW Act.

Under Section 90 of the Act, it is an offence for a person to destroy, deface, damage or desecrate an Aboriginal Object or Aboriginal Place without the prior issue of an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP). The Act requires a person to take reasonable precautions and due diligence to avoid impacts on Aboriginal Objects. AHIPs may only be obtained from the Environmental Protection and Regulation Division (EPRD) of OEH.

The *National Parks and Wildlife Amendment Regulation 2010* commenced on 1 October 2010. This Regulation excludes activities carried out in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* from the definition of harm in the Act. That is, test excavations may be carried out in accordance with this Code of Practice, without requiring an AHIP. The Regulation also specifies Aboriginal community consultation requirements (*Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*). In addition, the Regulation adopts a Due Diligence Code of Practice which specifies activities that are low impact, providing a defence to the strict liability offence of harming an Aboriginal object.

Part of the regulatory framework for the implementation of the NPW Act is the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS), maintained by OEH. AHIMS includes a database of Aboriginal heritage sites, items, places and other objects that have been reported to the OEH. Heritage consultants are obliged to report Aboriginal sites identified during field investigations to OEH, regardless of land tenure, or whether such sites are likely to be impacted by a proposed development.

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* establishes the framework for cultural heritage values to be formally assessed in planning and development consent process. The EP&A Act requires that environmental impacts are considered before land development; this includes impacts to cultural heritage items and places as well as archaeological sites and deposits.

The EP&A Act also requires that local governments prepare planning instruments, such as Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) and Development Control Plans (DCPs) in accordance with the EP&A Act, to provide guidance on the level of environmental assessment required. Demolition or alteration of a heritage item requires development consent from the local council.

Auburn LEP 2010

Clause 5.10 of the Auburn LEP 2010 has been prepared in accordance with the NSW Government's Standard Instrument—Principal Local Environmental Plan, and is consistent with current heritage best practice guidelines, providing for the protection of heritage buildings, places, works and trees, heritage conservation areas, and archaeological relics.

Schedule 5 'Environmental Heritage' of the Auburn LEP 2010 does not identify any Aboriginal heritage items within the study area or its vicinity. The Newington Armament Depot is a locally listed item on schedule 5 of the Auburn LEP 2010.

SEPP (Major Development) 2005 – Schedule 3 – Part 23 – Sydney Olympic Park ⁴⁵

The primary statutory planning controls for the site are provided under the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Projects) 2005*. The other primary consideration is the *Sydney Olympic Park Master Plan 2030*, a statutory document under the *Sydney Olympic Park Authority Act 2001* which provides more detailed design control. The following controls concern heritage.

1 Heritage conservation

(1) Requirement for consent

Development consent is required for any of the following:

- (a) demolishing or moving a heritage item or a building, work, relic or tree within a heritage conservation area,
- (b) altering a heritage item or a building, work, relic, tree or place within a heritage conservation area, including (in the case of a building) making changes to the detail, fabric, finish or appearance of its exterior,
- (c) altering a heritage item that is a building, by making structural changes to its interior,
- (d) disturbing or excavating an archaeological site while knowing, or having reasonable cause to suspect, that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed,
- (e) disturbing or excavating a heritage conservation area that is a place of Aboriginal heritage significance,
- (f) erecting a building on land on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area,
- (g) subdividing land on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area.

(2) When consent not required

However, consent under this clause is not required if:

- (a) the applicant has notified the consent authority of the proposed development and the consent authority has advised the applicant in writing before any work is carried out that it is satisfied that the proposed development:
 - (i) is of a minor nature, or is for the maintenance of the heritage item, archaeological site, or a building, work, relic, tree or place within a heritage conservation area, and
 - (ii) would not adversely affect the significance of the heritage item, archaeological site or heritage conservation area, or
- (b) the development is limited to the removal of a tree or other vegetation that the consent authority is satisfied is a risk to human life or property, or
- (c) the development is exempt development.

(3) Effect on heritage significance

The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause, consider the effect of the

⁴⁵ <http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/epi+194+2005+cd+0+N>

proposed development on the heritage significance of the heritage item or heritage conservation area concerned. This subclause applies regardless of whether a heritage impact statement is prepared under subclause (4) or a heritage conservation management plan is submitted under subclause (5).

(4) Heritage impact assessment

The consent authority may, before granting consent to any development on land:

- (a) on which a heritage item is situated, or
 - (b) within a heritage conservation area, or
 - (c) within the vicinity of land referred to in paragraph (a) or (b),
- 2. require a heritage impact statement to be prepared that assesses the extent to which the carrying out of the proposed development would affect the heritage significance of the heritage item or heritage conservation area concerned.

(5) Places of Aboriginal heritage significance

The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause to the carrying out of development in a place of Aboriginal heritage significance:

- (a) consider the effect of the proposed development on the heritage significance of the place and any Aboriginal object known or reasonably likely to be located at the place, and
 - (b) notify the local Aboriginal communities (in such way as it thinks appropriate) about the application and take into consideration any response received within 28 days after the notice is sent.

This report fulfils the requirement of this SEPP

7 Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusion

The site currently contains two buildings consisting of office/commercial and warehouse space, driveway, parking areas, paths and gardens. The buildings are located in the northern and eastern portions of the site with on-grade parking areas in the western and southern areas. The double storey, rendered concrete and glass offices were constructed in 1998 as the Corporate Headquarters for Homebush Bay and the NSW Lotteries Office.

Several surveys of the subject site have been undertaken. No evidence of aboriginal occupation was located in the current or previous surveys of the site. Previous excavation of the site in 1997 revealed that the general topography has remained unimpaired however the existing ground surface is largely an introduced, or reformed top soil.⁴⁶ The implication from these excavations is that natural soil profiles were partially eroded after European settlement, and were reformed or replaced in the 19th or early 20th centuries. It is therefore unlikely that evidence of aboriginal occupation would have survived *in situ*.

According to documentary and photographic evidence, it is unlikely that any improvements were made to the subject site prior to the construction of the current buildings apart from the addition of levelling material. Carney and Steele undertook a survey and test excavation on the site in 1997 and found that there was no evidence of previous structures or land use. It is unlikely that Wentworth's house was located on or in the vicinity of the subject site. The 1986 Fox survey suggests that the homestead was located where the current administration buildings are now constructed.

The entire site has been heavily modified as a result of construction of roads and footpaths on the site boundary and the construction of the current buildings and car parking on the site. The site has been benched to accommodate the slope. The landscaped areas of the site contain below ground irrigation and there are also a number of pits, electricity, Telstra, gas and water services present on the site. There is no evidence of previous structures, roads or topographic features. While evidence of Aboriginal or early European occupation of the site would be highly significant we have concluded that the site is considered to have no archaeological potential or significance.

This report satisfies the SEARs for an Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment to inform the EIS currently being prepared for the proposed redevelopment of the subject site.

No further approvals concerning Aboriginal or historic archaeology are required.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

As required by the *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Act, 1974* and the *NSW Heritage Act 1977 (amended)*, in the event that Aboriginal cultural heritage or historic cultural fabric or deposits are encountered where they are not expected, works in the immediate vicinity of the uncovered cultural fabric/deposit must cease immediately to allow the archaeologist to make an assessment of the find. The archaeologist may need to consult with the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) regarding Aboriginal cultural heritage relics, or the NSW Heritage Division, Department of Planning concerning the significance of historic cultural material unearthed.

Recommendation 2

If unexpected historical archaeological material was encountered during works, it would be necessary to stop all work in the immediate vicinity of the identified deposits. The NSW Heritage Council would be notified and a qualified archaeologist would be engaged to assess the significance of the material and recommend whether further investigation is required.

There may be a requirement to retain archaeological material *in situ*, and to conserve and display any significant structural remains or artefacts. This requirement will depend on the condition and significance of the material.

⁴⁶ Carney and Steele 1997 p:33

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[Note: Some government departments have changed their names over time and the above publications state the name at the time of publication.]

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Appendix A

AHIMS Search Results



Urbis Sydney
GPO 5278
sydney New South Wales 2001
Attention: Karyn Virgin
Email: kvirgin@urbis.com.au

Date: 29 June 2015

Dear Sir or Madam:

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Lot: 22, DP:DP787402 with a Buffer of 1000 meters, conducted by Karyn Virgin on 29 June 2015.

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of the Office of the Environment and Heritage AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

0	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
---	--

0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *
---	---

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