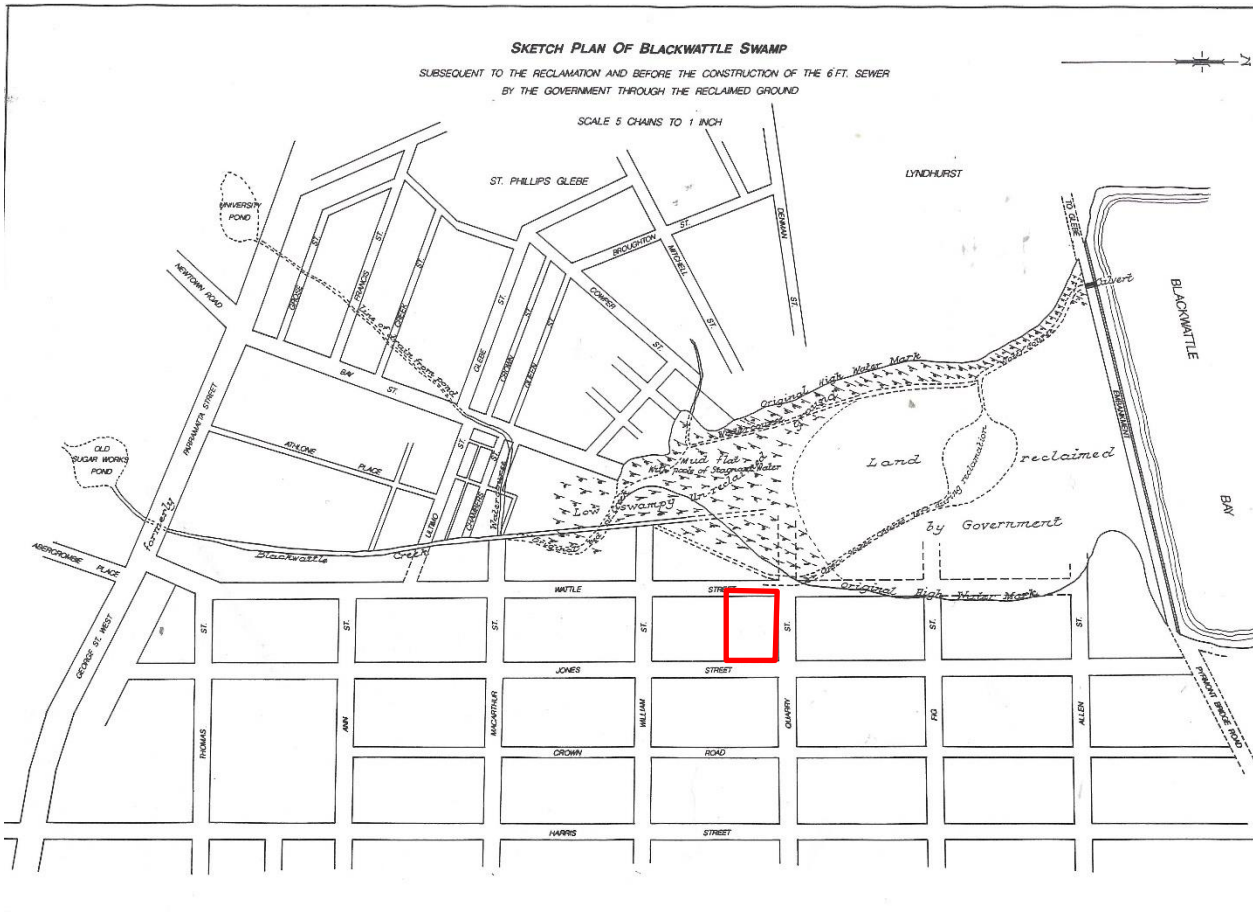
beyond high-water mark in Blackwattle Bay[30]" and subdivide it into residential allotments. Between 1876 and 1880, the former swamp and foreshore area was filled with slit deposits dredged from the Sydney Harbour, and dykes and sea walls were erected to protect the shoreline[31].

Figure 27 – Sketch plan of Blackwattle Swamp. The subject site is located at the next to the reclaimed land and marked red in the plan



Source: Pyrmont & Ultimo: Under Siege by Shirley Fitzgerald and Hilary Golder

4.3.1. The Wool Industry

The newly reclaimed foreshore in Ultimo became home to a myriad of prominent businesses associated with the timber, oil and wool industry from the late 19th to the mid-20th century and wool stores were the most common occupants around the subject site. In 1883, Goldsbrough and Co. established a five-storey wool store at the junction of Fig and Pyrmont Street. Designed by prominent architect, William Pritchard and constructed by major building firm, Stuart Brothers, the wool store featured ornate brick walls and massive open floors supported by hardwood girders.

The Goldsbrough store was the first of twenty wool stores constructed in Ultimo over the next half-a-century. In 1897, entrepreneur John Bridge established a two-storey wool store at 372-428 Wattle Street. The store's activities were taken over by the Farmer and Graziers Co-operative in 1917, which expanded the store by a further three storeys in 1919 that made them the largest store in Ultimo. In 1935, Farmer and Graziers constructed a second wool store at 492-516 Jones Street which was located directly opposite their first store[32].

In 1899, the Cooperative Wool and Produce Company established a five-storey wool store at 45 Jones Street. A second store was added adjacent to the current school site in the 1920s and a tunnel under the school grounds was proposed to connect its existing wool store on the north side of Quarry Street to the

[30] "Blackwattle Bay," *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 December 1872, accessed 10 November 2016, http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/13316507?searchTerm=blackwattle%20bay%20reclamation%20act&searchLimits=.
[31] Brian McDonald + Associates, *Op. Cit.,* 9.
[32] Shirley Fitzgerald and Hilary Golder, *Op. Cit.,* 29.

second wool store to the south of the school. The company was acquired by Elder Smith and Co. and subsequently merged with Goldsborough in 1963 to form Elder Smith Goldsborough Mort[33].

In 1906, a three-storey Federation-style wool store was constructed by the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Company at 89-97 Jones Street. The internal timber structure and windows of the store were destroyed by fire in 1987.

In 1937, an existing role of terrace houses along 14-18 William Street were demolished for a 5-storey Inter-War warehouse owned by Australian Wool Brokers and Produce Company.

The proliferation of wool stores in Ultimo/Pyrmont signalled the rapid expansion of the wool industry in Australia where the growth of the pastoral industry and the export of wool in the nineteenth century through to the middle of the twentieth century was fundamental to the development of the Australian economy.

4.3.2. Oil, Timber and Fish

Besides the cluster of wool stores, the reclaimed swamp was also home to oil refineries and timber factories

Firstly, two of the renowned timber companies were Saxton and Binn, which operated a sawmill facility at Blackwattle Bay between 1885 and 1940 (Figure 37)[34], and Allen Taylor and Company, which was responsible for constructing a wharf near the fish market and operating mills, offices and timber storage areas from 1895 to 1941[35].

Secondly, a bulk store and oil depot was established at the foreshore by the British Imperial Oil Company and Vacuum Oil Company in 1906. Ownership of the principal buildings was transferred to the Shell Company of Australia in 1927, which carried out a series of expansions in the 1930s and 1940s that encompassed workshops, stores and storage tanks. The petroleum giant was the last to operate at the site before it was acquired as the location for the new fish market in 1963[36].

Thirdly, the timber yard at Saxton and Binns was acquired by William Hiles Ltd in 1948, which then leased the site to Fairfax Newsprint Storage in the 1960s. A paper storage facility was constructed at the site before it was converted into the market hall of the fish market was in the mid-1980s[37].

4.4. ULTIMO PUBLIC SCHOOL

The draining and reclamation of the Blackwattle Swamp also created space for the construction of the Ultimo Public School. The original school was situated at a different site altogether at the junction of Murray and Pyrmont Streets[38] although there was no readily available information on the exact location of the school.

According to *Sydney Architecture*, the earlier and since demolished rendered brick stone school building was designed in Victorian Free architectural style[39] and opened in 1879[40]. The school's first headmaster is George Suttie whereas the first mistresses of the girls' department and infants' department are Annie Hotten and Fanny Cooke respectively[41].

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[33] Ibid., 29-30.
[34] "The Attention of Wool Brokers, Fell Mongers and Coopers Box Manufacturers," *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 3 June 1899, accessed 10 November 2016, http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/14222825?searchTerm=saxton%203%20june%201899&searchLimits=l-title=35.
[35] Wendy Thorp, Op. Cit., 59.
[36] Brian McDonald + Associates, Op. Cit., 12.
[37] "$4m fire in Fairfax Newsprint Store," *The Canberra Times*, 10 February 1971, accessed 30 June 2017, http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/110454169?searchTerm=newsprint%20fire&searchLimits=dateFrom=1971-01-01||dateTo=1971-12-31.
[38] "At the Ultimo School," *The Australian Star*, 25 May 1906, accessed 30 June 2017, http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/229656750?searchTerm=%22ultimo%20public%20school%22&searchLimits=sortby=dateAsc
[39] Sydney Architecture, "Ultimo Public School," accessed 30 June 2017, http://sydneyarchitecture.com/GON/GON088.htm.
[40] "School Examinations: Ultimo Public School," *Evening News*, 18 December 1879, accessed 30 June 2017, http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/107165425?searchTerm=%22ultimo%20public%20school%22&searchLimits=sortby=dateAsc
[41] "Public School Teachers," *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 25 June 1880, accessed 30 June 2017, http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/13462916?searchTerm=%22ultimo%20public%20school%22&searchLimits=sortby=dateAsc.

Figure 28 – The original Ultimo Public School (1880-1932), located at a different site on Murray and Pyrmont Streets

Source: Tyrrell Collection via National Library of Australia

Within two years of the school's operations, there were concerns regarding the crowded state of the school[42]. The urgency in securing a new site was exacerbated by the resumption of the original location by the Railway Commissioners in the early 1910s to construct railyards even though the actual demolition only took place in 1932[43].

In 1914, the Public School Board secured the current location facing Wentworth Park on Jones Street and temporary buildings were erected for a cost of £1470 to accommodate 300 students[44]. A permanent brick building was erected between 1916 and 1918; this is the building shown in Figure 30 to Figure 33.

The rapid expansion of Ultimo prompted the school to construct additional kindergarten classrooms in 1925. The school was built on a natural slope with the highest level at Jones Street, the 1925 extension on the middle terrace and the playing fields on the lower terrace facing Wattle Street.

The 1949 City of Sydney's Aerial Photographic Survey indicates several ancillary buildings, toilets and shelter sheds on the higher ground and stairways connecting the different levels of the terraced school compound. The zig-zag patterned playing field was an example of shelter trenches constructed in schools and parks during World War II.

In 1963, a new three-storey slab block was constructed on the playing fields facing Wattle Street. However, the original 1916 building remained standing and could be seen on 1964 photographs of the site.

Hence, it could be deduced that the original building was demolished several years after the inauguration of this new extension, sometime in the late 1960s or early 1970s.

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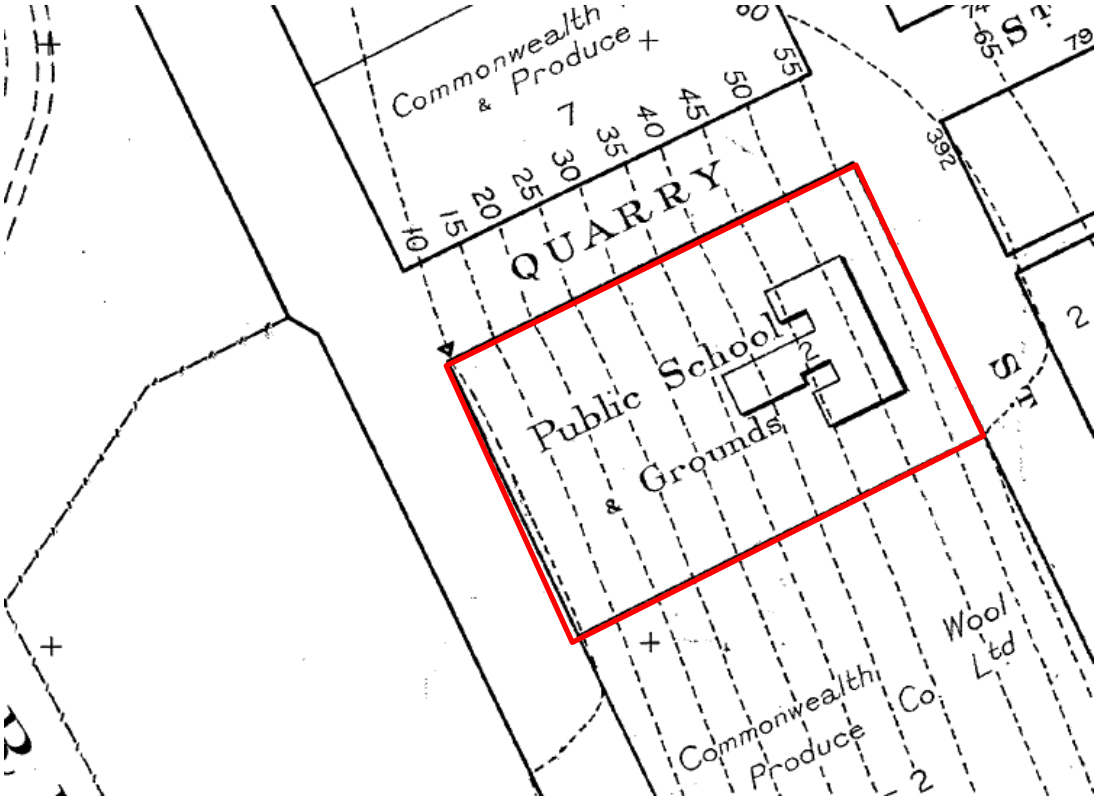
[42] "No Title," *The Sydney Daily Telegraph,* 10 January 1881, accessed 30 June 2017, http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?sortby=dateAsc&q=%22ultimo+public+school%22&s=20

[43] "Public School Improvements*," The Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 August 1914, accessed 30 June 2017, http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/15530426?searchTerm=%22ultimo%20public%20school%22&searchLimits=sortby=dateAsc

[44] "General Notes*," The Sydney Morning Herald*, 30 June 1914, accessed 30 June 2017, http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/15519377?searchTerm=%22ultimo%20public%20school%22&searchLimits=sortby=dateAsc.

By 2001, an additional wing was constructed on the middle terrace and remains in use as the Ultimo Public School today.

Figure 29 – Location of the Ultimo Public School at the Jones Street site, with the earlier school building (c. 1916-1960s/70s) shown. This building has been demolished

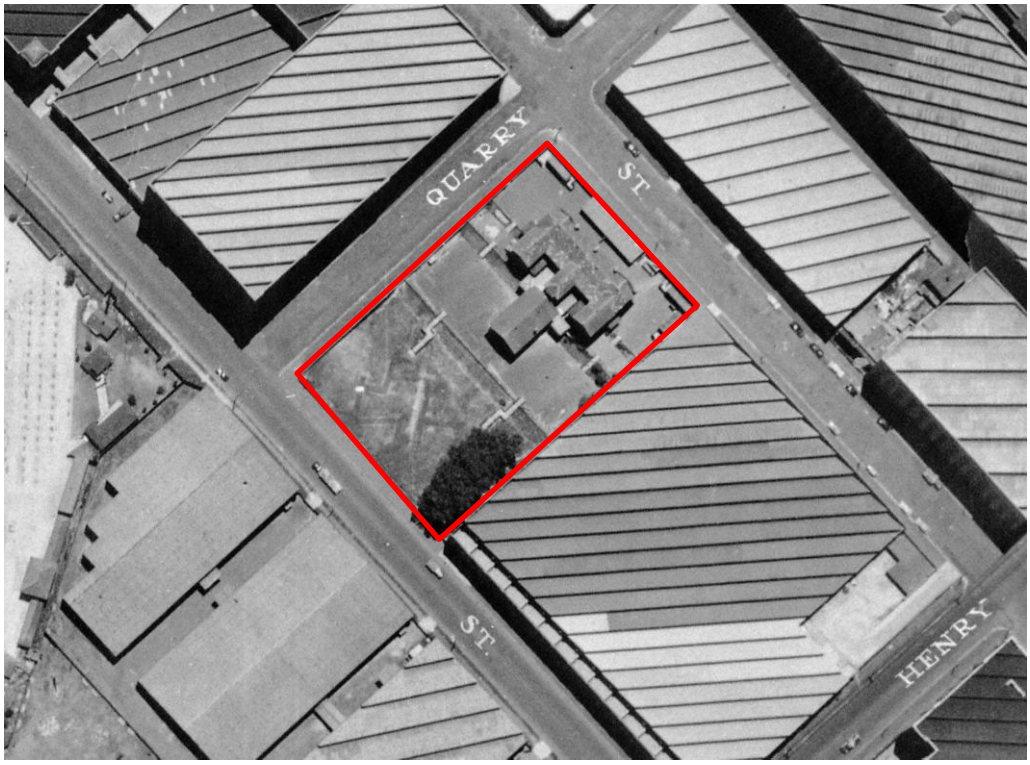


Source: 1938-1950 City of Sydney Civic Survey

Figure 30 – The 1918 school building viewed from the west looking towards Jones Street. This image was taken in 1963. The upper two terraces of the site can be clearly seen. It is presumed that the central wing of the school that was constructed on the middle terrace and contained the additional classrooms for the kindergarten, constructed in 1925.

Source: State Library of New South Wales

Figure 31 – A 1949 aerial view of the school with the highest level at Jones Street, the 1925 extension on the middle terrace and the playing fields on the lower terrace facing Wattle Street. Note the main 1918 building shown in this figure was demolished in the 1960s/70s



Source: City of Sydney Aerial Photographic Survey 1949

Figure 32 – A three-storey slab extension of the school in 1963. The earlier school building (c. 1918) and 1925 extensions, since demolished, is visible at the left of frame

Source: City of Sydney Archives

Figure 33 – An aerial view of Wentworth Park in 1964. The original 1916 building, 1925 and 1963 extensions can be seen clearly on the photograph

Source: City of Sydney Archives

4.5. SUMMARY OF HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

Temporary and ancillary buildings were constructed on the site in 1914, and these fronted Jones Street (western site boundary).

The original school building was constructed in 1918 and demolished in the 1960s.

Extensions to the rear of this building were undertaken in 1925 and these buildings were also demolished in the 1960s.

The historical information indicated that the development of the present school features, including the majority of the building construction and slope formation occurred in the 1960s.

Placement of the imported topsoil in the upper terrace (eastern playing field) area probably occurred around the mid-1980s.

Construction for the administration block was underway in 2002, and the building and current carpark at the western end of the school (lower terrace) were completed prior to 2004. The softfall surface on the upper terrace was placed at some time after 2005.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

5.1. DISTURBANCE

Various phases of development, including the reclamation of the Blackwattle swamp between 1876 and 1880, the terracing of the slope, the construction of Ultimo Public School and its numerous alterations and additions throughout the years, have caused disturbances at the subject site.

The multiple phases of development over time are likely to engender a moderate degree of disturbance across the site, particularly to the upper layers of the deposit through cutting, levelling, filling, piling and other construction works.

5.2. TOPOGRAPHY AND HYDROLOGY

Figure 34 – Topography of Pyrmont Peninsula (1788). The subject site is marked in red.

Source: Transformations: Ecology of Pyrmont Peninsula 1788-2008 by John Broadbent

5.2.1. Topography

The Pyrmont peninsula is oriented in a north-west/south-east direction. Its rugged nature is reflected in both historical and contemporary surveys which denote “higher grounds with hachures from the tip of the peninsula south to about where William Henry Street now runs.”[45]

The general topography of Ultimo remains relatively unchanged since 1788. There is a sequence of small knolls where gentle rises and falls in the land occur when one walks northwards along Bulwara Road. The road rises gently until it reaches William Henry Street (near Ultimo Community Centre) where the first knoll is situated. The knoll extends to the north of Fig Line where the land slopes down towards Allen Street.

A preliminary environmental site assessment conducted in May 2017 reveals the regional topography of the site, which falls to the west at 5-10^{o} with a north-south oriented ridge line located to the east of the site. Hence, the subject site slopes to the west at approximately 5-10^{o}. Several terraces are cut into the slope to create level areas for the construction of the school.

5.2.2. Hydrology

The nearest surface water body is Blackwattle Bay, which is located approximately 500 metres north of the subject site. Cockle Bay is also located in proximity to the site, approximately 600 metres to the northeast.

Originally, and prior to the reclamation of the Blackwattle Swamp between 1876 and 1880, Blackwattle Swamp Creek extended to the south of the site. Blackwattle Swamp itself was originally to the immediate west of the site.

5.3. SOILS AND GEOLOGY

5.3.1. Geology

Based on the 1:100,000 series geological map of Sydney, much of Pyrmont peninsula and its adjoining Sydney and Glebe peninsula including the subject site consists of Hawkesbury Sandstone.[46]

The Hawkesbury Sandstone is described as a type of medium to coarse-grained quartz sandstone with minor shale and laminate lenses. Geotechnical studies on the subject site indicate that between four metres and seven metres of fill was found above the bedrock on the upper terrace along Jones Street and less than a metre on the middle and lower terraces. This suggests that the natural, rocky shoreline was filled to form the level terraces for the construction of the school from 1914. In association with this geology and prior to disturbances, the subject site may have contained a small amount of raw stone material, particularly sandstone, which is known to have been used by Aboriginal people in the past. For example, sandstone sheets were often used for sharpening hatchets; this process results in depressions in the sandstone identified as ‘grinding grooves’.[47]

However, materials such as shale and ironstone present in these areas were not generally used as a resource by Aboriginal people in the past due to their relative fragility. Preferred raw stone materials, such as quartz, silcrete, chert, tuff and mudstone, are generally fine-grained and siliceous.[48] This relative absence of preferred geological resources somewhat limits the potential for higher density artefact sites to be deposited within or within the vicinity of the subject site.

However, and as has been noted at other Aboriginal sites found within and around the CBD, there is a possibility that raw stone material was sourced from elsewhere within the Cumberland Plain and brought to the area of working or use. This is in accordance with the subject site being situated in association with a landform (proximity to the Harbour) that may have been a preferred location for transient use or occupation, particularly due to its proximity to estuarine/marine resources and a generous water supply.

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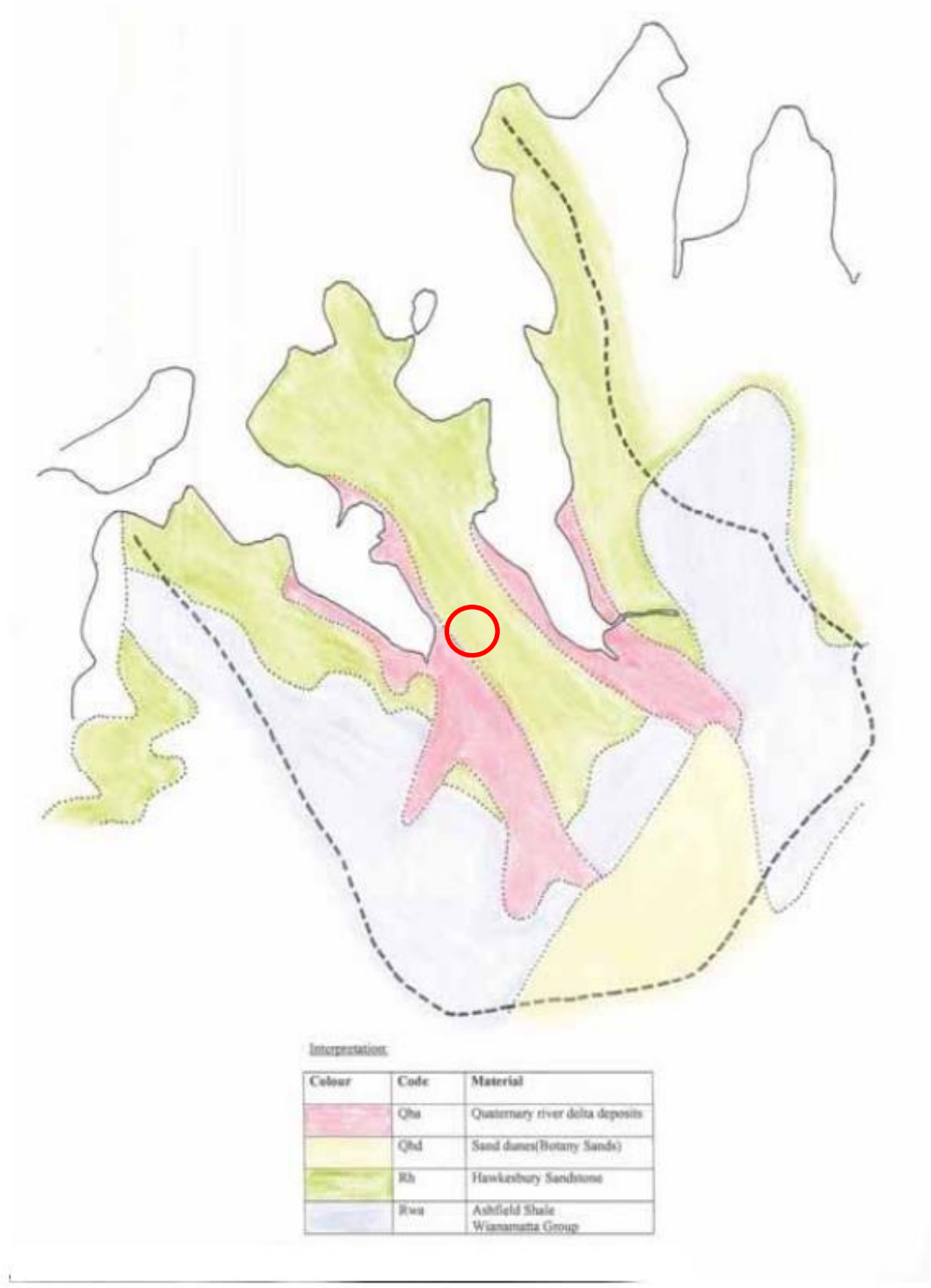
[45] John Broadbent, Op. Cit., 47-48.
[46] Sydney 1:100,000 Geological Series Sheet, 9130 Edition, 1983) and Soil Landscape Series Sheet (9130 Edition, 1983).
[47] Attenbrow, V, 2002, *Sydney’s Aboriginal Past*, UNSW Press, Sydney: 120-122
[48] Attenbrow, V, 2002, *Sydney’s Aboriginal Past*, UNSW Press, Sydney: 120

Figure 35 – Geology of Pyrmont peninsula and its interpretation. The location of the subject site is marked in red.



Source: Transformations: Ecology of Pyrmont Peninsula 1788-2008 by John Broadbent

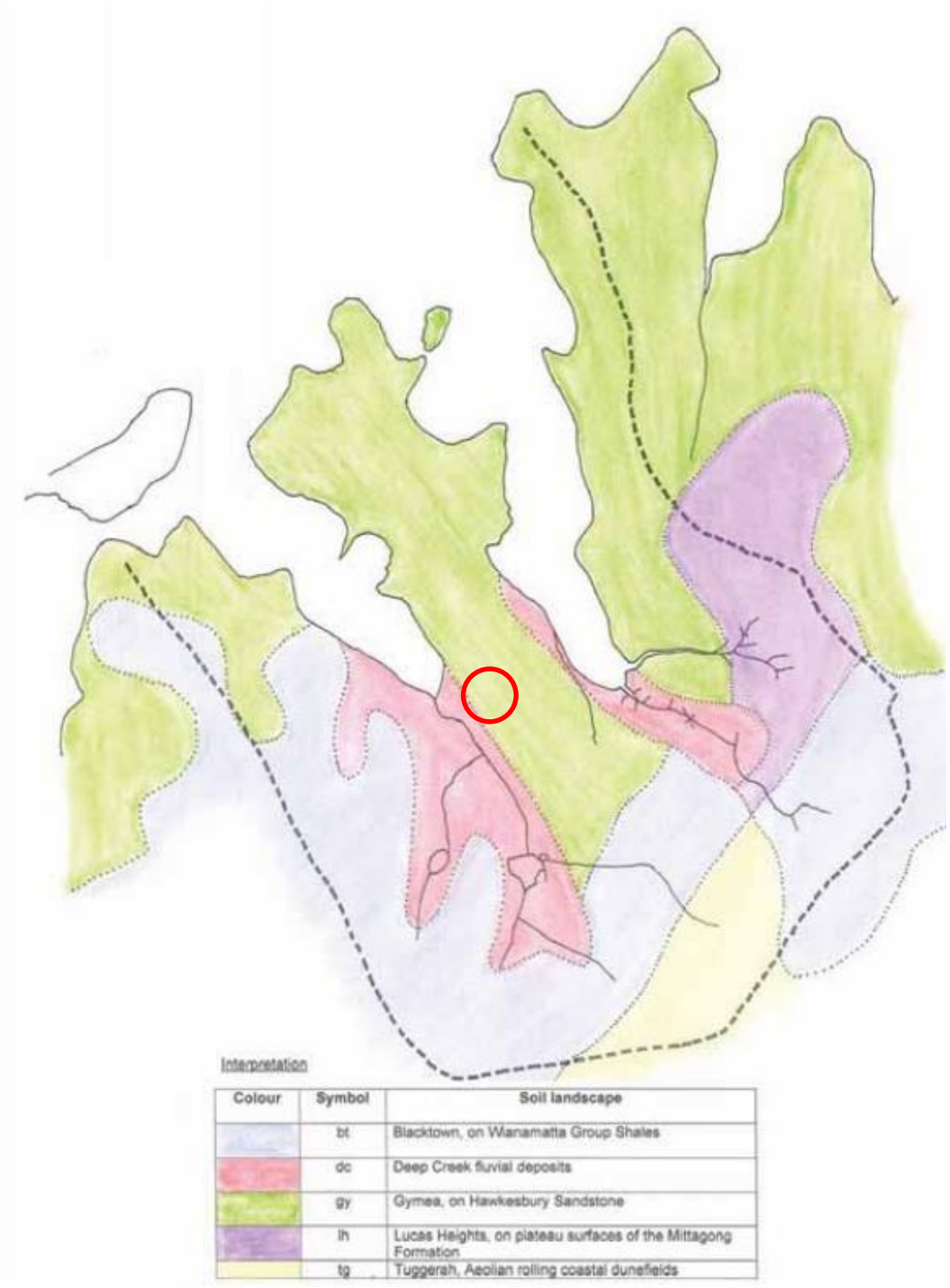
5.3.2. Soils

The soil landscape, which is associated with the Hawkesbury Sandstone and Quaternary alluvial and estuarine sediments, comprises Gymea erosional soils that covers the core of Pyrmont peninsula from Broadway/George Street to the harbour. This landscape features "undulating to rolling rises and low hills on Hawkesbury Sandstone. Local relief 20m-80m, slopes 10-25%. Broad convex crests, moderately inclines side slopes with wide benches, localised rock outcrop on low broken scarps."[49] The naturally occurring

[49] Ibid., 45.

Gymea erosional soils “were shallow to moderately deep (30-100 centimetres) on the crests and inside of benches, shallow on the leading edges of benches with localised soils derived from shall lenses. These drainage lines contain siliceous and leached sandy soils.

Figure 36 – Soil landscape in Pyrmont peninsula



Source: Transformations: Ecology of Pyrmont Peninsula 1788-2008 by John Broadbent

Erosional soils along estuarine and coasts are susceptible to severe sheet erosion including wind and water erosions as well as unstable deposition processes. This reduces the potential for Aboriginal archaeological material to be retained *in situ* within such an environment, particularly given the extent to which the subject site has been subsequently developed.

5.4. FLORA AND FAUNA

5.4.1. Flora

The first European settlers described the Blackwattle Bay and the area around Wentworth Park as a low-lying swamp interspersed with sand dunes and rocky outcrops. Prior to the complete clearance of vegetation within and around the subject site, the gently undulating landscape above the eastern foreshore of the Blackwattle swamp was dominated by low, dry sclerophyll open-woodland on the ridges and upper slopes including commonly present species like Red Bloodwood (Eucalyptus gummifera), Scribbly Gum (Eucalyptus haemastoma), Brown Stringybark (Eucalyptus capitellata) and Old Man Banksia (Banksia serrata); whereas the sheltered slopes supported plant species like Black Ash (Eucalyptus sieberi), Sydney Peppermint (Eucalyptus piperita) and Sydney Red Gum (Angophora costata). The understorey of the plant communities consisted of shrubs from the families Ericaceae, Myrtaceae, Fabaceae and Proteaceae[50].

Governor Arthur Phillip (b.1738 – d.1814), a Royal British Navy officer and the first Governor of New South Wales, made the following observations about Blackwattle Bay and Sydney Cove. He observed, “The necks of land that form the coves are mostly covered with timber, yet so rocky that it is not easy to comprehend how the threes could have found nourishment to bring them to so considerable magnitude.” [51].

Peter Cunningham, an explorer who visited New South Wales five times between 1819 and 1828, described the type of landscape that characterised Pyrmont peninsula and Blackwattle Bay. “The shores onwards are bold, and often precipitous, - agreeably varied in their general outline by romantic little bays, which, with their white sandy beaches, open irregularly to the right and left as you sail along. On each side the land, broken and moderately high, terminates toward the shore in narrow ridges, covered with native shrubs in perpetual summer verdure, among which, rocks of varied hues peep here and there abruptly out, while slender streams of water, gurgling down the narrow valleys between the ridges, just reveal themselves at intervals, and retire again from view[52].”

He described the areas inland from the coastal zone comprising “a poor clayey or ironstone soil, thickly covered with our usual evergreen forest timber and underwood.”

James Atkinson, a trader, made similar remarks on the vegetation in 1827. “The barren scrubs almost everywhere border the sea coast, and extend various distances inland … The soil in these scrubs is either sandstone rock or sterile sand and gravel, covered, however, with a profusion of beautiful shrubs and bushes, producing the most elegant flowers, and affording a constant succession throughout the whole year[53].”

The flora around Pyrmont peninsula served as habitats for animals as well as sources of food and raw materials for the Aboriginal community. For instance, eucalyptus trees were important resources; leaves were crushed and soaked for medicinal purposes, bowls, dishes, and canoes were made from the bark, and spears, boomerangs and shields were crafted from the hard wood.[54] Similarly, banksia trees provided nectar, while a dry cone had multiple uses including firebrands and the its dried flowers were used to strain drinking water. Sharp tools (needles) used for weaving baskets and mats were made from banksia wood.[55]

5.4.2. Fauna

Besides common animals like kangaroos, wallabies, sugar gliders and possums, it was believed that the Pyrmont peninsular laid within the natural ranges of 220 bird species in 1788.

Early settlers including Watkin Tench (b.1758 – d.1833), provided some general insights into the birdlife around Port Jackson and Pyrmont Peninsula. He observed, “Hawks are very numerous, so are quails. A single snipe has been shot. Ducks, geese and other aquatic birds are often seen in large flocks.”

The aboriginal community hunted some of these animals for food including kangaroos, possums, echidnas, lizards, snakes, birds and rats. These animal bones were recovered from archaeological sites within the

[50] John Broadbent, Op. Cit., 45.
[51] Wendy Thorp, *Sydney Fish Market Assessment: European Archaeology and Heritage Resources* (Sydney: City of Sydney Archives, 2010), 28.
[52] John Broadbent, *Op. Cit.,* 125.
[53] Ibid., 125.
[54] Nash, Op. Cit., 4-8.
[55] Ibid., 2.

Greater Sydney region while the hides, teeth and bones of the large mammals were used for ornamentation, clothing and other implements.

This is every indication that the flora and fauna which occupied Pyrmont peninsula in 1788 was drastically changed in the process of European colonisation and settlement. Furthermore, the extensive development within and around the subject site, including the reclamation of the swamp, terracing of the slopes and the construction of the Ultimo Public School, meant that the landscape was substantially modified. Hence, the natural environment around us today in a highly urbanised setting like Pyrmont peninsula bears little or no resemblance to those at European settlement.

5.5. SUMMARY

A review of the environmental context suggests that resources, including food (flora and fauna) and raw material sources, would have been available in and around the subject site in the past. Topographically, the subject site is easily accessible and navigable on foot.

The subject site was well sourced with subsistence resources specifically, including flora, fauna and water. The Blackwattle Bay would have provided a major resource for Aboriginal people in the past, including the provision of marine/estuarine resources generally, including food in the form of shellfish and fish.

Original vegetation and associated fauna would have also provided an abundance of natural resources for use as food, or for the manufacture of tools and general equipment. As discussed above, vegetation species present in the subject site, including various eucalypt and banksia species, are known to be used by Aboriginal people in the past.

Raw stone material, particularly sandstone, would also be available within the subject site in the past. Exposed sandstone beds/sheets have the potential to have been used as grinding groove sites in the past, for example. However, preferred raw stone materials such as chert, mudstone, quartz and silcrete do not naturally occur in the immediate area. This is not to say that such material may not be brought to the immediate area from farther afield either for working or use.

An overview of the environmental context indicates that there would have been adequate naturally occurring resources in and around the subject site, which may have encouraged Aboriginal use and occupation of the area in the past. Blackwattle Bay/Swamp, in particular, is likely to be the focal point for resource procurement in the past and prior to European modification.

6. RELEVANT GEOTECHNICAL STUDIES

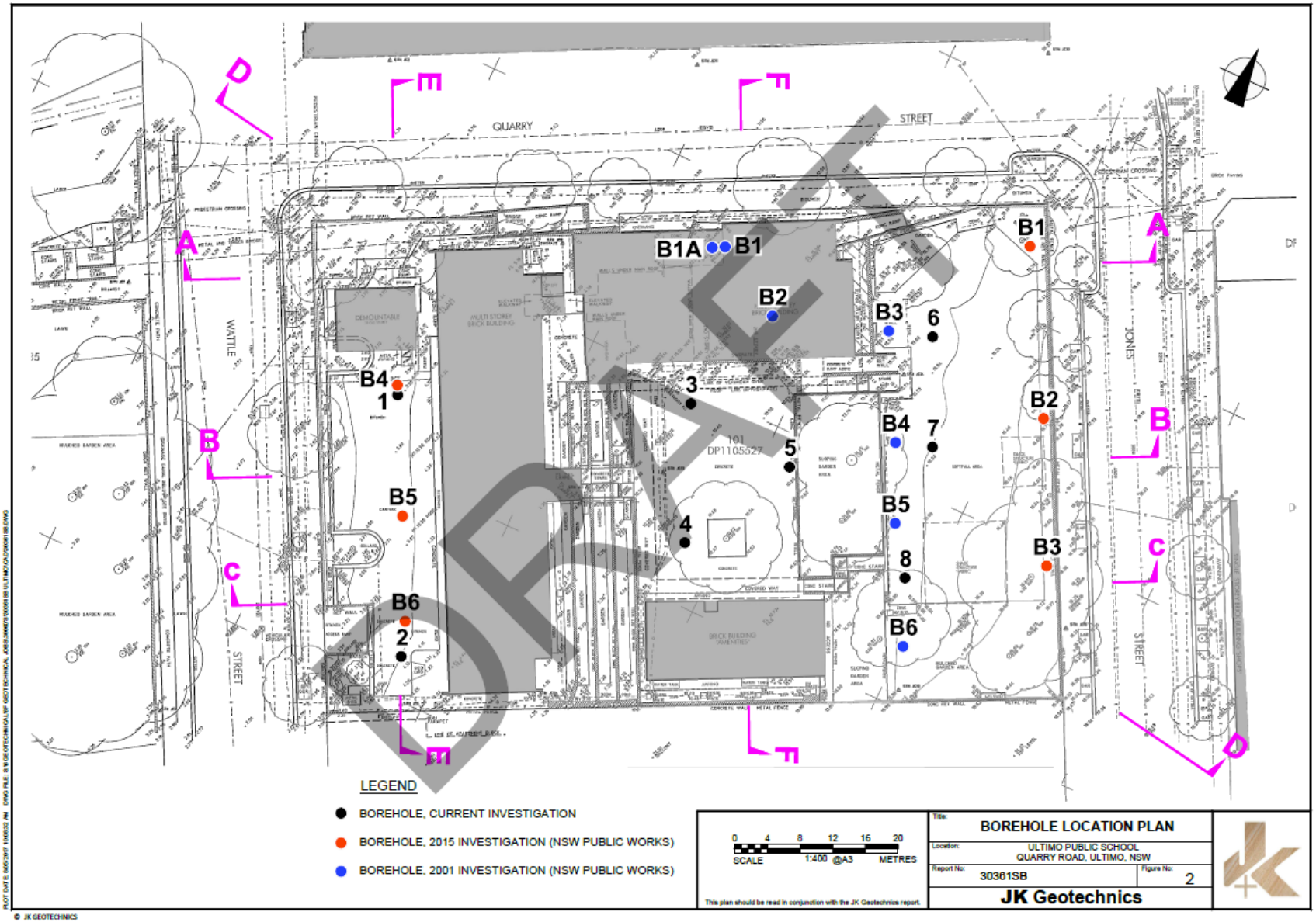
Geotechnical and contamination studies have been undertaken at the subject site by JK Geotechnics and Environmental Investigation Services to inform the current proposal. A summary of the subsurface conditions encountered during these investigations is presented in the table below.

Table 1 – Summary of subsurface conditions based on geotechnical testing

Profile	Description
Pavement	Asphaltic Concrete (AC), Concrete or synthetic pavement, approximately 10mm to 180mm thick, was encountered at the surface in all boreholes.
Fill	Fill material was encountered beneath the pavement in all boreholes and extended to depths of approximately 1.5m to 8.1m. The fill was typically more shallow (approximately 2m) in the west section of the site. The fill typically comprised silty sand, clayey sand, gravelly sand and sandy gravel. The fill contained inclusions of igneous, ironstone and sandstone gravel, slag, ash and brick fragments. Metal fragments were encountered in the fill in BH6.
Natural Soil	Clayey sand, silty sand, sandy clay natural soils were encountered beneath the fill in BH1 to BH3 and extended to depths of approximately 3.3m to 8.1m. The natural soil was typically grey or brown and contained traces of ironstone gravel in BH2. Natural soils are alluvial.
Bedrock	Sandstone was encountered beneath the fill or natural soil in all boreholes and extended to the termination of all boreholes at a maximum depth of approximately 13.31m. The sandstone was typically light grey and yellow brown.

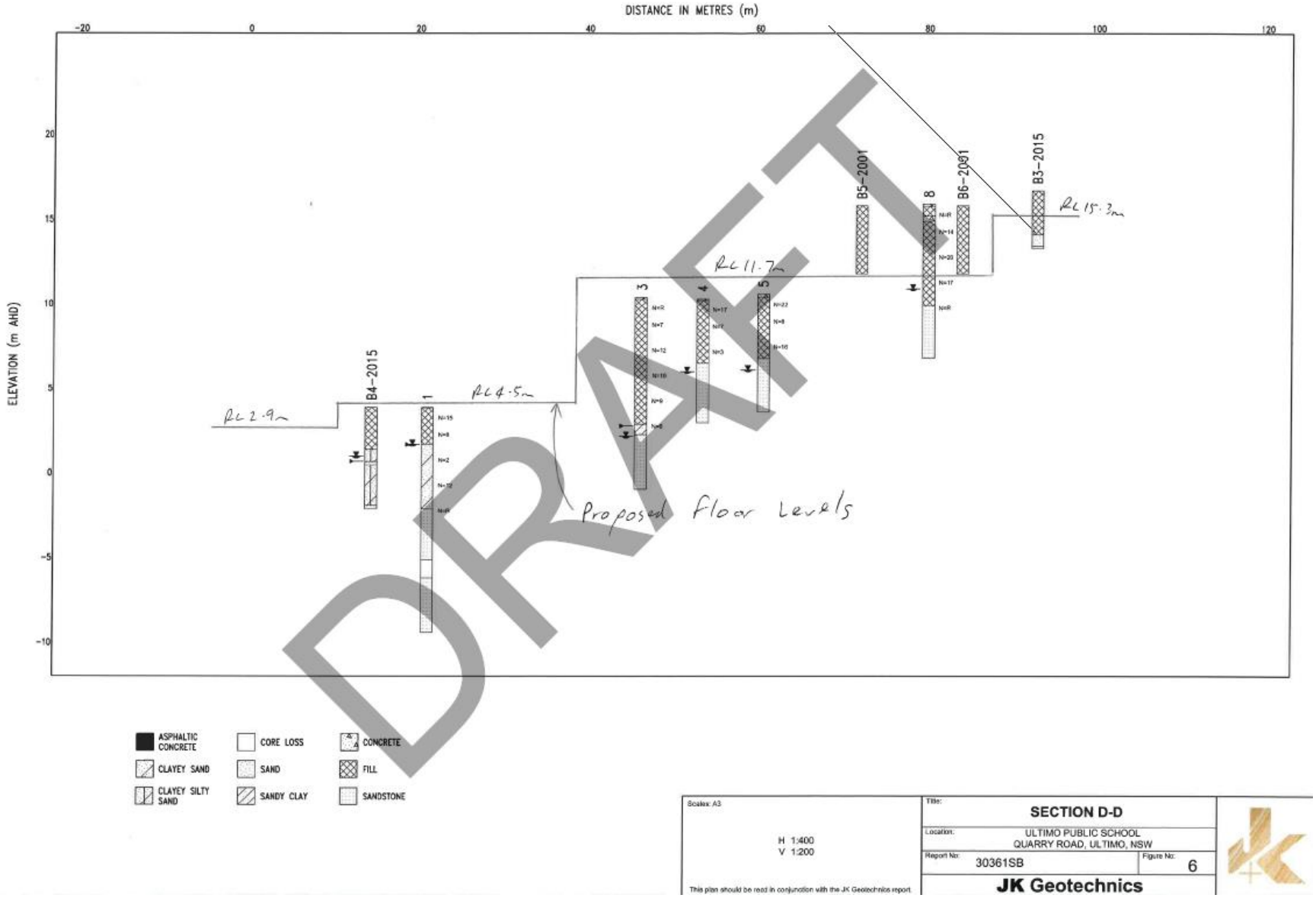
As the below figures demonstrate, residual natural soils, comprising clayey sand, silty sand, sandy clay alluvial soils, were generally limited to the western side of the site and in association with the lower terraces. Depths of natural soils encountered in this area varied from 0.6 (Borehole 3, 2017) to 3.8 metres (Borehole 1, 2017) in depth.

Figure 37 – Map showing borehole investigations undertaken at the subject site in 2001, 2015 and 2017



Source: JK Geotechnics 2017

Figure 38 – Section D-D showing borehole investigations undertaken at the subject site in 2001, 2015 and 2017



Source: JK Geotechnics 2017

7. ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE/ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

7.1. AHIMS: ABORIGINAL HERITAGE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

A search of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage AHIMS database was conducted on 3 July 2017 for the subject site which occupies on Lot 101 of DP1105527 with a buffer of 200 metres.

The search identifies that there are no recorded Aboriginal sites in or near the above location and no Aboriginal places declared in or near the above location.

Figure 39 – Search results for Lot:101; DP:1105527 with a buffer of 200 metres

Source: AHIMS

7.2. ABORIGINAL HISTORY

The Cadigal people of the Eora nation are the traditional people of the Pyrmont Peninsula. It is estimated that the Eora people are composed of over 30 clans in Sydney basin area during pre-European settlement and each clan comprised approximately 30 to 50 people.[56] Renowned Sydney-based archaeologist Val Attenbrow estimates that Aboriginal occupants have occupied the Sydney region for at least 6000 years[57].

Prior to invasion, the Cadigal people lived as hunter-gatherers, focusing mainly on oysters, cockle, mussels and fish caught directly in the harbour. Cadigal means 'man of the Cadi' and one meaning for the word Cadi is ‘under or ‘below’ which points to this rise in waters and loss of land.

[56] Grace Karskens, *The Colony: A History of Early Sydney* (Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin, 2009), 37.
[57] Val Attenbrow, Sydney's Aboriginal Past: Investigating the Archaeological and Historical Records. 2nd Ed. (Sydney, N.S.W: University of New South Wales Press, 2010), 56.

Blackwattle Creek was a source of water, fishes and other food for the Cadigal people. The creek was originally a tidal waterway which traversed from the swampy mangrove near present University of Sydney through a valley covered with wattle trees in Ultimo and then drained into the Blackwattle swamp at the head of Blackwattle Bay[58]. Hence, there was some archaeological traces of Aboriginal people living along the creek:

> *"The most substantial evidence has been found at an Aboriginal campsite located on the original banks of the swamp at the head of Blackwattle Bay. The campsite was situated in what is now the block next to Broadway between Mountain Street and Blackwattle Lane, and was found during archaeological excavations undertaken prior to the redevelopment of the block in the early 2000s. The area was excavated and found to contain 14 Aboriginal stone artefacts made of several different stone types commonly found in other sites in Sydney. The artefacts were probably discarded by Aboriginal people over time as waste material during stone tool manufacture or during activities such as hunting, butchering or the processing of plant foods."*

The European incursion in the late 18th century had a profound impact on the Cadigal people. The European settlers rode on soaring global demand for Australian wool and swept into their traditional land. Although the pastoral settlers were confronted by armed resistance from the Aboriginal people, the introduction of diseases from Europe and Asia, particularly smallpox, brought about enormous casualties and wiped out more than half the indigenous population.[59] René-Primavère Lesson, a French surgeon and pharmacist who visited Sydney in 1824, commented, "The tribes today are reduced to fragments scattered all around Port Jackson, on the land where their ancestors lived and which they do not wish to leave.[60]"

7.3. LITERATURE REVIEW (ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS UNDERTAKEN IN THE LOCAL AREA)

Lampert, R.J, 1985, *Excavation Report on Mort's Bond Store*, unpublished report to the Department of Environment and Planning

In 1985 Lampert excavated a midden and camp site at Mort's Bond Store, (previously located at East Circular Quay). The site had been truncated by construction of the building and was in a highly disturbed condition. It contained shell and bone, as well as stone artefacts manufactured from red and grey silcretes, quartz, quartzite and chert. The artefacts were comprised of flakes, flaked pieces and cores. Lampert hypothesised that the stone material was sourced from quarries on the Cumberland Plain.

Attenbrow, V, 1992, 'Shell Bed or Shell Midden', *Australian Archaeology* No. 34

Another midden was uncovered during building works near the historic building "Lilyvale" on the corner of Cumberland and Essex Streets, The Rocks, just to the north west of the present study area. It had been highly disturbed by the construction of terrace houses in the 1830s and was subsequently destroyed by the construction of a hotel (AHIMS 45-6-1853).

GML Heritage, Angel Place Project 1997, Archaeological Excavation Volume 3, Salvage Excavation of Site #45-6-2581, report prepared for AMP Asset Management Australia, the NSW Heritage Council and NPWS (NSW)

GML conducted salvage excavations of site 45-6-2581 in Angel Place, situated between George and Pitt Streets in Sydney's CBD and located approximately 2 km to the northeast of the current project area. The site straddles the former alignment of the Tank Stream. Technological analysis of 54 flaked stone artefacts recovered during the excavations revealed that on-site reduction of various materials including silicified tuff, indurated mudstone, silcrete and quartz had taken place. The original size of the site could not be determined due to development impacts. However, the artefact distribution suggested that there was a contiguous distribution of lithics along the banks of the original creek, likely to have been deposited from repetitive or continuous Aboriginal occupation.

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[58] Paul Irish and Tamika Goward, "Blackwattle Creek," accessed 10 June 2017, http://www.sydneybarani.com.au/sites/blackwattle-creek/.
[59] Peter Read, *A Hundred Years War: The Wiradjuri People and the State* (Canberra: Australian National University Press, 1988), 8.
[60] NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, "Ryde Pumping Station and Site," accessed 10 May 2017, http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2340117.

It was concluded that the site is likely to have been a point of first contact between the original Aboriginal occupants of the Tank Stream Valley and the European settlers arriving in Sydney Cove in 1788. However, no unequivocal physical evidence of contemporary Aboriginal contact and/or occupation was detected at the site.

AHIMS 45-6-2580 (original reporting not available)

During historic excavations in relation to the construction of the eastern distributor at Woolloomooloo, an artefact scatter was uncovered. This site was subsequently excavated by Brayshaw (AHIMS 45-6-2580). This site, which was located near a spring, contained 4 silcrete, 4 chert, 2 quartz artefacts plus one quartzite and one chalcedonic silica artefact. They were found at a depth of about one metre in "disturbed topsoil, overlain by fill".

AHIMS 45-6-2651 (original reporting not available)

During historic excavations in respect of development works located at William Street (to the south of the present subject site), an artefact scatter was uncovered. This was subsequently excavated and the artefacts included fine quartz debitage and cores, silcrete flakes and tuff cores and flakes (AHIMS 45-6-2651).

Steele, D, 2002, *Aboriginal Archaeological Excavation: Quadrant Development Site, Broadway & Mountain Street, Sydney, NSW, containing DECC Site 45-6-2629*, unpublished report to College Square Residential Pty Ltd

In 2002 Steele undertook Aboriginal archaeological test excavation and monitoring at a block situated at Broadway and Mountain Streets, approximately 600 metres to the southwest of the subject site. Testing in 1 x 1 metre squares was undertaken along the bank and upslope of Blackwattle Creek, which traverses the site.

One small remnant patch of original topsoil (measuring c. 5 x 15 metres) was tested and produced approximately 20 Aboriginal flaked stone artefacts. All items were less than 10 millimetres in maximum dimension, and the assemblage generally consisted of non-diagnostic pieces. Consent to destroy the site was subsequently granted, with the provision of monitoring of the works, but no further Aboriginal artefacts were recovered.

Steele, D, 2006, *Final Aboriginal Archaeological Excavation Report: The KENS Site (Kent, Erskine, Napoleon and Sussex Streets), Sydney, NSW, containing DECC Site 45-6-2647 and associated areas of PA*, unpublished report to Leighton Contractors Pty Ltd

In 2006 excavations were undertaken at the KENS site, bounded by Kent, Erskine, Napoleon and Sussex Streets in the Sydney CBD. A total of 952 artefacts were excavated, with silcrete being the dominant raw material type. Tuff and quartz artefacts were also present.

The excavation report interpreted the site as being occupied between 2,800 BP to 1788.

Comber, J, 2012, *Darling Quarter (formerly Darling Walk), Darling Harbour, Aboriginal Archaeological Excavation Report*, unpublished report to Casey & Lowe Pty Ltd on behalf of Lend Lease Bovis

In 2012 Comber undertook an Aboriginal archaeological assessment and excavation at Darling Harbour, at a site which had previously been developed with a large commercial building that was demolished prior to excavation. The excavation was undertaken close to the former shoreline, with soils contained therein being silty alluvium.

A redeposited midden with ten stone artefacts (predominately chert) was identified. The ten artefacts comprised unretouched flakes and flaked pieces with no features that could be used to attribute the artefacts to the phases described by McCarthy or Gould.

GML, Heritage, 2012, *200 George Street, Sydney, Aboriginal Archaeological Excavation*, report prepared for Mirvac Property

A Due Diligence Assessment prepared by GML in 2012 concluded that the 200 George Street project area had some potential for Aboriginal archaeological deposits. A Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) was registered on the AHIMS database as #45-6-3081.

Archaeological investigations of PAD #45-6-3081 did not positively identify any Aboriginal archaeological deposits; that is, the potential archaeological deposit was not realised. Natural soil profiles were identified in

Area 4 and Area 8 during historical archaeological excavation, but Aboriginal objects were not identified in either area during consequential works.

GML concluded that the location of their subject site on the banks of the intertidal zone of the Tank Steam resulted in extensive reclamation activity throughout the 1800s, preserving the pre-European landscape intact. However, the geomorphology of this area, with stepped sandstone and highly organic estuarine soils, appears to have made it unsuitable to Aboriginal people, or unsuitable for conserving an archaeological signature relating to any activity which did occur. Hence, unexcavated portions of the 200 George Street study area were assessed to hold very low to no archaeological potential for further in situ Aboriginal archaeological deposits.

In Area 4 the natural soil profiles were deemed to have no archaeological potential due to the nature of their deposition within marine environments. In Area 8 the geomorphology was similarly unlikely to result in the deposition of in situ archaeological deposits due to a highly irregular bedrock surface.

The AHIMS card for 45-6-3081 was updated following the excavations to reflect these findings, with the site status modified to 'Not a Site'.

Stening, T, 2015, (IN PREP), *Darling Harbour Live (formerly SICEEP PPP), Darling Harbour: Aboriginal Archaeological Excavation Report*, unpublished report to Casey & Lowe on behalf of Lend Lease

Comber Consultants were also engaged to undertaken Aboriginal archaeological excavations at the former International Convention Centre on the western side of Darling Harbour. As part of these excavations, a total of 63 stone artefacts were identified; silcrete was the dominant material, and the artefacts were predominately flaked pieces (nine unretouched flakes and one retouched flake). Of these, 44 were identified as representing a 'discrete knapping floor on the edge of a midden'.

Based on an analysis of the artefacts it was determined that the assemblage belonged to Gould's "Australian small tool tradition' and the Bondaian phase of McCarthy's Eastern Regional Sequence. Radiocarbon dating and environmental information indicates the midden was deposited in the mid-1800s.

7.4. ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The literature review, outlined above, suggests that the subject site has a relatively low degree of potential to contain archaeological material based on:

- Its topography and associated underlying soils and geology;
- The extent to which it has been previously disturbed; and
- The absence of any registered Aboriginal archaeological material or sites in or within 200 metres of the subject site.

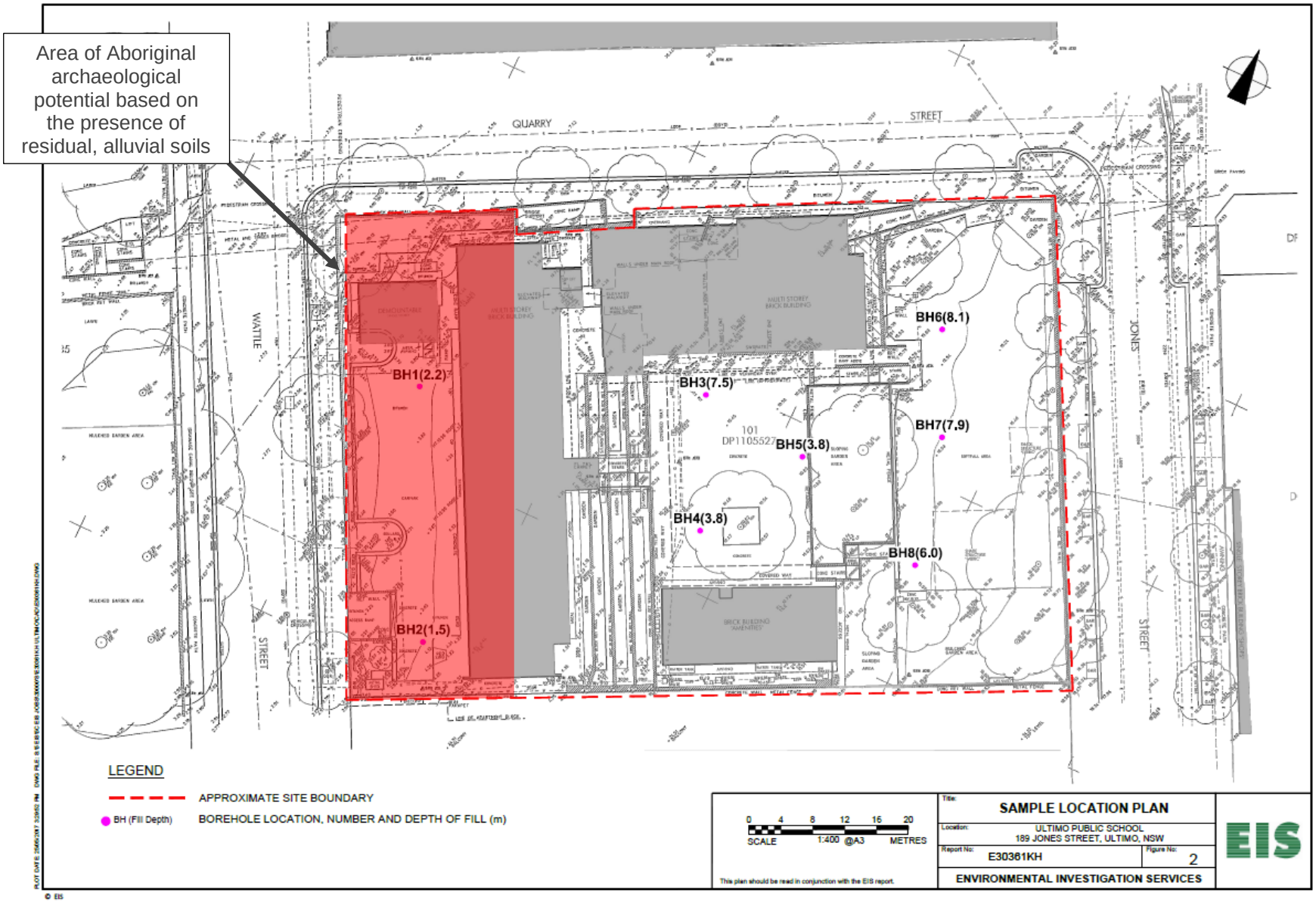
Although the subject site is situated near the former shoreline of the Blackwattle swamp where Aboriginal activity has been historically recorded, previous excavations undertaken by Attenbrow (1992) and Comber (2012) suggest that there remains limited potential for shell midden material and/or stone artefacts to be retained within disturbed terrains, particularly in proximity to former/modified shorelines.

However, the presence of natural soils, particularly within the western portion of the site, suggests that the site has retained a degree of potential to contain Aboriginal objects within residual and potentially undisturbed soil layers beneath current development.

Overall, the site is identified to have a low degree of potential to contain Aboriginal archaeological objects or sites. This potential is, however, limited to the western portion of the site where residual alluvial soils have been identified through geotechnical assessment.

The area of identified potential is indicated in Figure 40, overleaf.

Figure 40 – Area of identified Aboriginal archaeological potential (indicated in red)



Source: EIS 2017

8. HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

Historical 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.* [61]

Archaeological research potential of a site is the extent to which further study of relics likely to be found is expected to contribute to improved knowledge about NSW History which is not demonstrated by other sites, archaeological resources or available historical evidence. The archaeological potential of the study area will be presented using the following grades:

Low Potential: land use history suggests limited development or use, or there is likely to be quite high impacts in these areas, however deeper sub-surface features such as wells, cesspits and their artefact-bearing deposits may survive.

Moderate Potential: land use history suggests limited phases of low-moderate development intensity, or that there are impacts in this area. A range of archaeological remains are likely to survive, including building footings and shallower remains as well as deeper sub-surface features.

High Potential: substantially intact archaeological remains could survive in these areas.

It is understood that the subject site has not previously been subject to archaeological investigation.

8.1. HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The following table details the potential for archaeological features or deposits to survive in the study area.

Table 2 – Assessment of historical archaeological potential

Phase	Activity	Potential Archaeological Remains	Likely Survival
Pre 1910s	The site as part of the 'Harris Estate'	Evidence of landscape modification, possibly (though unlikely) ancillary, ephemeral structures, fence posts or similar, etc	Very low potential. This is due to the ephemeral nature of any remains from this phase, as well as construction and demolition works undertaken in following phases.
c. 1916-1960s	Use of the site as a school/earlier school buildings	Building remains (foundations, surfaces), paths, underground services and artefacts associated with the former buildings. Potential also, albeit limited, for drainage, deep features such as rubbish pits cesspits and wells.	Low to moderate potential. The demolition of former buildings at the site, and later construction works/reworking of the landscape in following phases (including the development of current school buildings), is highly likely to have removed or disturbed remains of this phase. Likely material includes:

[61] Department of Urban Affairs and Planning 1996

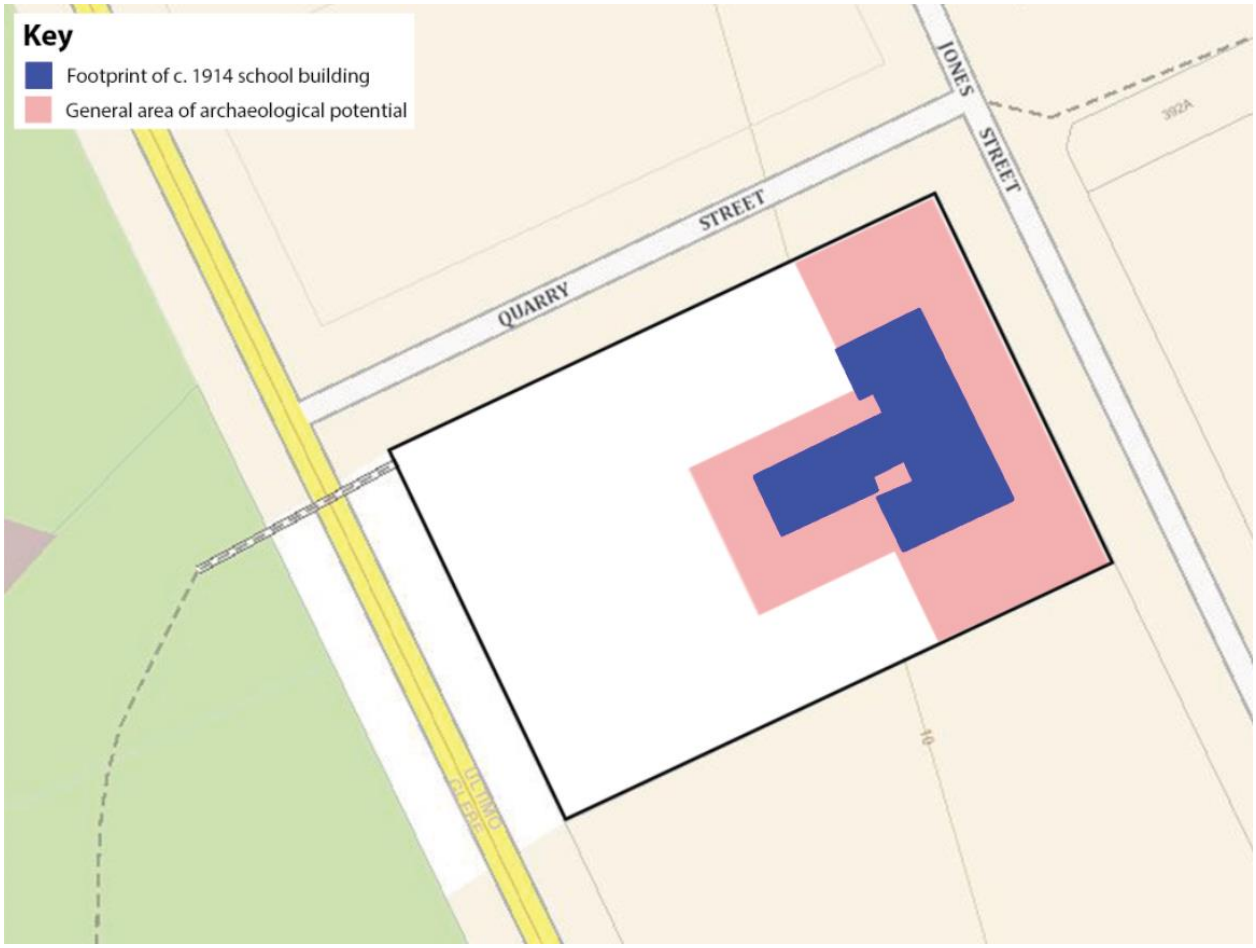
Phase	Activity	Potential Archaeological Remains	Likely Survival
			• Remnants of footings, walls/foundation walls, and paving; • Deeper sub-surface features such as wells, tanks or cisterns; • Occupational deposits/artefacts.
c. 1960s onwards	Use as contemporary school site	N/A	N/A

8.1.1. Summary of Historical Archaeological Potential

It has been identified that the subject site has low to moderate potential to contain archaeological remains associated with the former school buildings, constructed c. 1914 and 1925. If present, such remains are likely to be in the form of structural remnants (e.g. footings) and/or occupational deposits.

Based on a review of the historical record, the area of identified historical archaeological potential is identified below in Figure 41. This is based on the known location of the former school building, the results of geotechnical investigations undertaken at the site, and areas of known disturbance associated with later development.

Figure 41 – Area of identified historical archaeological potential



Source: https://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/ with Urbis overlays

9. SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

9.1. BUILT HERITAGE

Before making decisions to change a heritage item, an item within a heritage conservation area, or an item located in proximity to a heritage listed item, it is important to understand its values and the values of its context. This leads to decisions that will retain these values in the future. Statements of heritage significance summarise a place's heritage values – why it is important, why a statutory listing was made to protect these values.

9.1.1. Built Heritage Significance Assessment

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

The following assessment of heritage significance has been prepared in accordance with the 'Assessing Heritage Significance' (2001) guides.

Historical Significance

In its role as a public school initially established c. 1914, the current school site may have a degree of historical value to the local community and also to past and current students and staff more specifically. However, it is considered that this historical significance is not contained within the contemporary school buildings themselves, but rather within the overall site.

As such, modifications to the existing built form will not detract from this identified significance, which will be conserved through the continued use of the site for educational purposes to a contemporary standard and into the future.

Associative Significance

Through its use as an educational facility, the subject site is associated with the local community as well as past and current students and staff specifically.

However, this level of association is highly typical of institutional sites, and is not considered to meet the threshold for associative significance under the definition of the Heritage Council of NSW.

Social Significance

Through its use as an educational facility, the subject site is associated with the local community as well as past and current students and staff specifically, and therefore has a degree of social significance.

However, this level of association and associated social value is highly typical of institutional sites, and is not considered to meet the threshold for social significance under the definition of the Heritage Council of NSW.

Aesthetic Significance

As noted in the Government Architect's Office Heritage Group's 2015 assessment:

> *Block A constructed in 1963 has some merit as an example of modernist public school architecture however it has been so altered that its contribution to our appreciation of this historic architectural value is limited (i.e. it "has lost its design or technical integrity").*
>
> *The site as a whole does not particularly contribute to the setting of local heritage items or the Ultimo Conservation Area.*

Urbis supports this assessment of aesthetic significance, and for these reasons, the subject site is not assessed to meet the criterion for aesthetic significance.

Rarity

The subject site does not have any identified rarity.

Research Potential

The existing contemporary school buildings do not have the potential to reveal new or significant information regarding the local area or NSW's history.

Research potential with regards to historical archaeology is considered separately at in Table 3 at Section 9.2, below.

9.2. HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

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.*[62]

Assessing the research potential of an archaeological site stresses the importance of the need for archaeological research to add to the knowledge of the past in an important way, rather than merely duplicating known information or information that might be more readily available from other sources such as documentary records or oral history.[63]

The Heritage Division of the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) issued a new set of guidelines in 2009: *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'*. These guidelines call for broader consideration of multiple values of archaeological sites beyond their research potential. There are two levels of heritage significance used in NSW: state and local.

The following significance assessment provides a broad consideration of the potential heritage significance of archaeological remains that may be present on site.

Table 3 – Assessment of significance – potential historical archaeological resource

Criteria	Significance Assessment
A – Historical Significance *An item is important in the course or pattern of the local area's cultural or natural history.*	It is acknowledged that there is a low to moderate degree of potential for the site to contain archaeological remains of the previous phase of occupation (c. 1914-1920s). Based on the anticipated nature and condition of such remains, it is considered unlikely that they would be important in demonstrating this historical phase of use. As noted in the previous study undertaken by the Government Architect's Office Heritage Group in 2015, remains of the former school buildings may have a degree of historic significance at a local level due to its presence on the site and its role within the community for over 100 years. Remains of the school may also contribute to an existing understanding of this historical phase by way of occupational deposits that reveal information not readily available in the historical record. The potential for such deposits to be present is, however, assessed as low. For these reasons, archaeological remains at the site are considered unlikely to meet the threshold for

[62] Bickford and Sullivan, 1984 p: 23–24, as quoted in the Heritage Branch, 2009, *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and Relics*.p:8
[63] As above.

Criteria	Significance Assessment
	local heritage significance. They are, however considered likely to be of local interest.
Guidelines for Inclusion ▪ shows evidence of a significant human activity ☐ ▪ is associated with a significant activity or historical phase ☐ ▪ maintains or shows the continuity of a historical process or activity ☒	**Guidelines for Exclusion** ▪ has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important activities or processes ☒ ▪ provides evidence of activities or processes that are of dubious historical importance ☐ ▪ has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association ☒
B – Associative Significance *An item has strong or special associations with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the local area's cultural or natural history.*	Current research has not been able to identify any strong associations between buildings previously present on the site and a particular event, historical theme, people or philosophies. It is acknowledged that remains may have associations with former students or staff of the school site; however, these potential associations are not considered to be 'strong' or 'special' enough to meet the criteria for associative significance. Based on the above, potential archaeological remains at the subject site are not considered to meet the criterion of associative significance.
Guidelines for Inclusion ▪ shows evidence of a significant human occupation ☐ ▪ is associated with a significant event, person, or group of persons ☐	**Guidelines for Exclusion** ▪ has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important people or events ☒ ▪ provides evidence of people or events that are of dubious historical importance ☐ ▪ has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association ☐
C – Aesthetic Significance *An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in the local area.*	If archaeological remains associated with the previous phase of occupation are present on site, it is likely to be limited to structural remnants, such as footings, or occupational deposits. Based on the anticipated nature and condition of the potential archaeological resource, it is considered highly unlikely that they would demonstrate any technical or creative achievement, nor would

Criteria	Significance Assessment
	remnant elements be reflective of the original building's overall appearance or style. It is also noted that the former buildings present on site are well documented in the historical record by way of historical mapping and photographs. Based on the above, potential archaeological remains at the subject site are not considered to meet the criterion of aesthetic significance.
Guidelines for Inclusion ▪ shows or is associated with, creative or technical innovation or achievement ☐ ▪ is the inspiration for a creative or technical innovation or achievement ☐ ▪ is aesthetically distinctive ☐ ▪ has landmark qualities ☐ ▪ exemplifies a particular taste, style or technology ☐	**Guidelines for Exclusion** ▪ is not a major work by an important designer or artist ☒ ▪ has lost its design or technical integrity ☒ ▪ its positive visual or sensory appeal or landmark and scenic qualities have been more than temporarily degraded ☐ ▪ has only a loose association with a creative or technical achievement ☐
D – Social Significance *An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in the local area for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.*	It is acknowledged that the potential archaeological resource on site may, through its association with the school site generally, be of interest to the local community generally and the school community specifically. However, there is no evidence to suggest that the anticipated resource would have a particularly strong or special association with these groups; there is no evidence to suggest that the former school buildings are esteemed by the community for their cultural values, or that the removal of any potential archaeological resource would cause the community a sense of loss. It is the school site overall, rather than any potential archaeological resource, which contribute to the local and school community's sense of identity. Based on the above, potential archaeological remains at the subject site are not considered to meet the criterion of social significance on a local level. However, it is acknowledged that remains, if present, may be of general interest to the local community.

Criteria	Significance Assessment
Guidelines for Inclusion ▪ is important for its associations with an identifiable group ☐ ▪ is important to a community's sense of place ☐	**Guidelines for Exclusion** ▪ is only important to the community for amenity reasons ☐ ▪ is retained only in preference to a proposed alternative ☒
E – Research Potential *An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the local area's cultural or natural history.*	It is acknowledged that there is a low to moderate degree of potential for the site to contain archaeological remains of the previous phase of occupation (c. 1914-1920s). Based on historical research, development from this phase was not associated with any particularly significant people, businesses or activities; rather, the previous buildings were purpose-built for use as a local public school. If archaeological remains associated with this previous phase of occupation are present on site, it is likely to be limited to structural remnants, such as footings, and occupational deposits that are anticipated to be relatively limited and disturbed. Such remains are unlikely to provide information that would contribute significantly to a greater understanding of the local area's history. However, as the site has functioned as a school for over 100 years, it is likely that recovered archaeological material would be of interest to the local community generally, and to the school community specifically. It is acknowledged that the potential archaeological remains on site are considered relatively unlikely to provide information that is not already available via other archaeological sites, extant buildings (throughout Sydney) and the historical record. However, there remains potential for any archaeological material on site to *enhance* or add to our existing knowledge of the local area's history, and particularly the school's history. Whilst it is not considered that the potential archaeological resource would meet the criteria for research potential on a local level due to the anticipated nature and condition of such potential remains, they are assessed to have the potential to be of interest.

Criteria	Significance Assessment
Guidelines for Inclusion ▪ has the potential to yield new or further substantial scientific and/or archaeological information ☒ ▪ is an important benchmark or reference site or type ☐ ▪ provides evidence of past human cultures that is unavailable elsewhere ☐	**Guidelines for Exclusion** ▪ the knowledge gained would be irrelevant to research on science, human history or culture ☐ ▪ has little archaeological or research potential ☐ ▪ only contains information that is readily available from other resources or archaeological sites ☒
F – Rarity *An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the local area's cultural or natural history.*	As noted above, the subject site is considered likely to contain remains that are relatively readily available via other archaeological sites, extant buildings (throughout Sydney) and the historical record. As such, they are considered unlikely to meet the criterion for rarity.
Guidelines for Inclusion ▪ provides evidence of a defunct custom, way of life or process ☐ ▪ demonstrates a process, custom or other human activity that is in danger of being lost ☐ ▪ shows unusually accurate evidence of a significant human activity ☐ ▪ is the only example of its type ☐ ▪ demonstrates designs or techniques of exceptional interest ☐ ▪ shows rare evidence of a significant human activity important to a community ☐	**Guidelines for Exclusion** ▪ is not rare ☒ ▪ is numerous but under threat ☐
G – Representative *An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSWs (or the local area's):* • *cultural or natural places; or* • *cultural or natural environments.*	It is possible that the buildings previously present on site would be representative of early 20th century institutional or education building typologies. However, it is relatively unlikely that this would be able to be determined through uncovered archaeological resources, even if highly intact; if present, such resources would most likely be in the form of footings or wall foundations, which are considered likely to have been disturbed to some degree.

Criteria	Significance Assessment
	Based on the above, potential archaeological remains at the subject site are considered unlikely to meet the criterion for representativeness.
Guidelines for Inclusion ▪ is a fine example of its type ☐ ▪ has the principal characteristics of an important class or group of items ☐ ▪ has attributes typical of a particular way of life, philosophy, custom, significant process, design, technique or activity ☐ ▪ is a significant variation to a class of items ☐ ▪ is part of a group which collectively illustrates a representative type ☐ ▪ is outstanding because of its setting, condition or size ☐ ▪ is outstanding because of its integrity or the esteem in which it is held ☐	**Guidelines for Exclusion** ▪ is a poor example of its type ☐ ▪ does not include or has lost the range of characteristics of a type ☒ ▪ does not represent well the characteristics that make up a significant variation of a type ☒

The potential archaeological resource at the subject site may therefore have a degree of historical value and research potential, depending upon its nature and condition. It may also have associative and social value.

Whilst it is considered unlikely for the resource to reach the threshold of local significance, it has been identified that any archaeological remains uncovered would be of local interest, and it is predominately from this local interest that its identified historical, social, and associative value would be derived.

9.3. ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE/ARCHAEOLOGY

Cultural significance is a concept that assists appraisal of the value of places. The places that are likely to be of significance are those that help us understand the past, enrich the present, and may be of value to future generations. Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects.[64]

9.3.1. Cultural Heritage Significance and Values

The cultural heritage significance and values of an area and of any Aboriginal archaeological sites within that area can be assessed using the four criteria outlined in the *Burra Charter*; aesthetic, historic, scientific and social/ spiritual. These criteria are described below.

Social/Spiritual Value

Social/spiritual value concerns the spiritual, traditional, historical or contemporary associations and attachments which the place or area has for the present-day Aboriginal community. Places of social significance have associations with contemporary community identity. These aspects of heritage significance can only be determined through consultative processes with one or more Aboriginal communities. ·As such, they are archaeologically invisible and can only be identified with the aid of Aboriginal interpretation. If such sites are known, they hold particular cultural significance to contemporary Aboriginal people. Furthermore, sites of significance are not restricted to the period prior to contact with Europeans. Often events related to

[64] Australia ICOMOS, 1999

the contact period, and at times to the period since European settlement, may be important to the local Aboriginal communities.

Historic Value

Historic value refers to the associations of a place with a person, event, phase or activity of importance to the history of an Aboriginal community. Historic places may or may not have physical evidence of their historical importance, however the significance will be generally greater where evidence of the association or event survives in situ, or where the settings are substantially intact. Some events or associations may be so important that the place retains significance regardless of subsequent treatment. In relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage, many post-contact places and sites have historic value.

Aesthetic Value

Aesthetic value refers to aspects of sensory and may include consideration of form, scale, colour, texture, and material of the fabric or landscape, as well as the smell and sounds associated with the place and its use. With regard to pre-contact Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, the placement within the landscape would be considered under this criterion. Individual artefacts, sites and site features may also have aesthetic significance.

Scientific (Archaeological) Value

Scientific (archaeological) value refers to the importance of a landscape, area, place or object because of its archaeological and/or other technical aspects. Assessment of scientific value is often based on the likely research potential of the area, place or object and will consider the importance of the data involved, its rarity, quality or representativeness, and the degree to which it may contribute further substantial information. Scientific or archaeological significance may be assessed by placing a site, feature or landscape in a broader regional context and by assessing its individual merits in the context of current archaeological discourse.

9.3.1.1. Assessment of Cultural Heritage Significance and Values

An assessment of cultural heritage significance and values incorporates a range of values which may vary for different individual groups and may relate to both the natural and cultural characteristics of places or sites. Cultural significance and Aboriginal cultural views can only be determined by the Aboriginal community using their own knowledge of the area and any sites present, and their own value system.

All Aboriginal heritage evidence tends to have some contemporary significance to Aboriginal people, because it represents an important tangible link to their past and to the landscape. As such, this report does not comment on the cultural heritage significance or values of the subject site; such significance and values can only be determined by the Aboriginal community, or in direct consultation with the Aboriginal community.

This is reflected in Recommendation 5.

9.3.2. Scientific (Archaeological) Significance

Scientific significance, also referred to as archaeological significance, is determined by assessing an Aboriginal heritage site or area according to archaeological criteria. The assessment of archaeological significance is used to develop appropriate heritage management and impact mitigation strategies.

Criteria for archaeological significance have been developed in accordance OEH guidelines, as shown in Table 4, below.

Table 4 – Scientific (archaeological) significance criteria

Significance Criteria	Description
Research Potential	Does the evidence suggest any potential to contribute to an understanding of the area and/or region and/or state's natural and cultural history?
Representativeness	How much variability (outside and/or inside the subject area) exists, what is already conserved, how much connectivity is there?

Significance Criteria	Description
Rarity	Is the subject area important in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function or design no longer practised? Is it in danger of being lost or of exceptional interest?
Education Potential	Does the subject area contain teaching sites or sites that might have teaching potential?
Condition	What is the condition of the site? Does it appear to have been impacted/altered?

9.3.2.1. Assessment of Scientific (Archaeological) Significance

As no Aboriginal archaeological sites have previously been identified in the subject site, and as none were identified as part of the current assessment, an assessment of scientific (archaeological) significance is not currently warranted at this time. This is to be revised in the event that any archaeological objects or sites are identified at the subject site in the future.

10. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1. BUILT HERITAGE

Demolition of Existing School Buildings

The subject site, being the New Ultimo Pyrmont Public School, is not a listed heritage item, and was not assessed as significant as part of the 2015 Heritage and Archaeology Report prepared by the Government Architect's Office Heritage Group.

As noted at the Significance Assessment presented at Section 9.1, above, it has been acknowledged that the subject site has a degree of historical significance, but that this significance is associated with the institution rather than the buildings or fabric of the school; the buildings themselves do not have any identified aesthetic significance.

The continued use of the site as a public school will ensure that the site's historical, associative and social value is maintained, despite redevelopment. As such, there are no identified heritage impacts associated with the demolition of the existing school buildings.

Construction of New School Buildings

Although it is not a listed heritage item, the subject site is located in the vicinity of a number of locally listed items, as well as a HCA as defined in the Sydney LEP 2012. This is shown in Figure 2 at Section 1.3. Potential impacts to these surrounding items/HCA have been considered and assessed in the preparation of this report.

The 2015 report recommended the following with regards to built heritage:

- New development at the New Ultimo Pyrmont Public School site should give special design consideration to the large heritage woolstores in the vicinity of the site; and
- New development should also manage any potential heritage impacts on the Ultimo Conservation Area which is of a much lower scale. However, because of the historic patterning in Ultimo of large woolstores occupying the entire block between Jones and Wattle, medium rise buildings fronting Jones, Quarry or Wattle Streets would be acceptable in heritage terms.

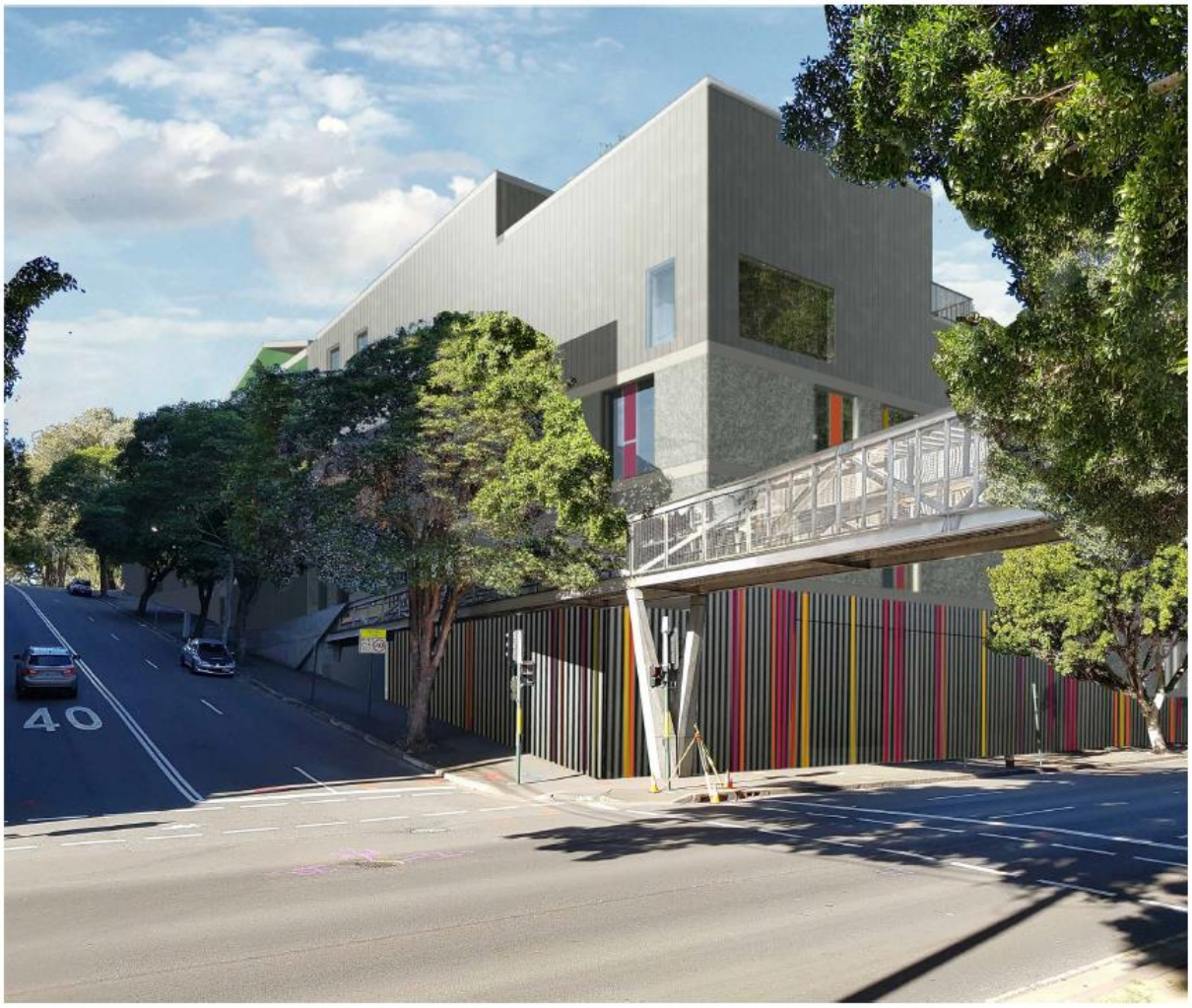
It is considered that the current proposal achieves both of the above, and is generally supportable, through the following design features:

- The proposed redevelopment will occur within the existing site boundaries and will not extend beyond these boundaries in any way. As such, no physical impact will occur to any nearby heritage items/HCAs as a result of the proposal;
- The proposed design works with the topography of the site, similar to the existing school buildings do. This ensure a consistent development height across the site, and a scale and form that is appropriate to the context. A single-storey scale is provided to Jones Street, and a five-storey scale is provided to Wattle Street; both of these scales is appropriate to the respective streetscapes;
- The proposed new development does not exceed the height of surrounding heritage items, but is clearly of a lower overall scale, particularly to Wattle Street. This is positive, as it allows for the prominence of the heritage items within the streetscape to be maintained. The proposal is of an appropriate form, scale and height to its surroundings, and will in no way detract from the existing street presentation of nearby heritage items, nor will it in any way visually dominate them;
- The materiality of the proposed building responds well to the industrial and historical character of the surrounds, without seeking to imitate it. This is achieved through the use of timber, sandstone, concrete and extensive glazing;
- Similarly, the clearly contemporary design of the proposed new building differentiates the development from its surroundings; in accordance with best practice, the proposed new building does not attempt to imitate the industrial or heritage character of neighbouring buildings, but seeks only to respond sympathetically and unobtrusively to its surrounds;
- The solid to void ratio of both of its street façades ensures that the proposed new building does not compete visually with the strong, masonry character of the heritage item to the immediate north;

- The proposed new building is to be constructed to the street boundaries to both Jones Street and Wattle Street. This setback to principal elevations is more consistent with the surrounding streetscapes, as well as with nearby heritage items. Ultimately, by being more consistent with established setbacks within the street, the proposed new building will be more consistent with its surrounds than the existing school buildings are;
- Overall, the proposed new design is not considered to be a significant departure from the scale, form and materiality of the existing buildings on site. The proposed redevelopment will therefore not result in any identified visual impacts to surrounding buildings or areas of heritage significance.

Figure 42 – Elevations of the proposed development

Picture 41 – Eastern/Jones Street elevation



Picture 42 – Western/Wattle Street elevation

Source: Lacoste +Stevenson, 2017

10.2. HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

The proposed redevelopment of the site will necessitate excavation at the site, and the construction of new school buildings which will require footings/foundations. The potential for historical archaeological material to be present within the site has been assessed as low to moderate, and it is considered that any remains uncovered would be of local interest, particularly to the past and current school community specifically.

It is considered that the impact to the potential historical archaeological resource associated with the proposed redevelopment would be total.

10.3. ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE/ARCHAEOLOGY

Overall, the site is identified to have a low degree of potential to contain Aboriginal archaeological objects or sites. This potential is, however, limited to the western portion of the site where residual alluvial soils have been identified through geotechnical assessment.

As part of the proposed redevelopment, several metres of residual, alluvial, soil will be removed from the area of potential. The impact to the potential archaeological resource within the soil to be removed (if present) will therefore be total.

11. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1.1. Built Heritage

It has been determined that the proposed redevelopment of the subject site will not result in any identified built heritage impacts. The proposed design is assessed to be of an appropriate scale, form and materiality that will not detract from or visually dominate any heritage items/HCAs in the vicinity.

Through the proposed redevelopment, the historic use of the site as a public school will be maintained to a contemporary standard.

However, the historical, associative and social values of the existing school buildings have been acknowledged; to mitigate the loss of this value via demolition, the following recommendation is made.

Recommendation 1

A full archival recording of the existing school buildings and overall school site should be undertaken prior to demolition works occurring. The purpose of this archival recording is to record the existing site conditions in perpetuity, so as to render them accessible in the future for the purposes of historical research or comparative analysis.

This archival recording should be undertaken in accordance with the following guidelines:

- 'Archives Advice 7: Protecting and Handling Photographs' (2007), National Archives of Australia;
- 'Archives Advice 30: Which Paper?' (2007), National Archives of Australia;
- Assessing Heritage Significance (2001), Heritage Branch;
- How to Prepare Archival Records of Heritage Items (1998), Heritage Branch;
- Photographic Recording of Heritage Items Using Film or Digital Capture (2006), Heritage Branch.

11.1.2. Historical Archaeology

As noted at Section 8.1, the subject site has been identified to have a low to moderate degree of potential to contain historical archaeological material. Any such material, if present, has been identified as being likely to have historical, associative and social value, but is not considered likely to meet the threshold for local significance due to its anticipated nature and condition.

Based on this assessment of significance, it is considered that test and/or open area excavation is not warranted in this instance. This is in accordance with the findings and recommendations of the 2015 assessment prepared by the Government Architect's Office Heritage Group.

Recommendation 2

Based on the identified heritage value of the potential archaeological resource, it is considered that archaeological monitoring (also known as a 'watching brief') is an appropriate management method in this instance.

Archaeological monitoring or a watching brief should be undertaken during demolition and excavation works that occur within the area of identified historical archaeological potential, as shown in Figure 41.

Monitoring should be undertaken by a suitably qualitied historical archaeologist with experience working at similar sites, and should be informed by a Research Design and Methodology. This document, which sets out how the archaeological resource is to be investigated and managed, must also be prepared by a suitably qualified archaeologist, and should be submitted to the NSW Heritage Division for comment and review prior to demolition and excavation works commencing on site.

As the project is a declared SSD, the relevant archaeological permits under S140 or s139 of the *Heritage Act* 1977 are not required to facilitate archaeological monitoring in this instance. Permit requirements should, however, be clarified with the engaged archaeologist prior to works commencing to confirm that no changes to the relevant approval pathway has occurred.

Recommendation 3

In the event that historical archaeological material is uncovered on site, provision should be made for the incorporation of this material into interpretative displays or media within the new school.

This should be undertaken in consultation with the school, NSW Heritage Division, and the engaged architects/design team and consultant archaeologist.

11.1.3. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage/Archaeology

As outlined at Section 7.4, the subject site is identified to have a low degree of potential to contain Aboriginal archaeological objects or sites. This potential is, however, limited to the western portion of the site where residual alluvial soils have been identified through geotechnical assessment. The area of identified potential is shown in Figure 40.

This identified archaeological potential is therefore required to be appropriately investigated and managed as part of the proposed redevelopment.

As the project is a declared SSD, and as no known sites are located within the subject site, an AHIP is not required under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act* 1974. Permit requirements should, however, be clarified with the engaged archaeologist prior to works commencing to confirm that no changes to the relevant approval pathway has occurred.

Recommendation 4

The Aboriginal archaeological potential of the site should be investigated through test excavation within the identified area of potential shown in Figure 40.

Test excavation should be undertaken in accordance with the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* 2010 and *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigations of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* 2010.

Recommendation 5

Prior to the commencement of test excavation, consultation with the Aboriginal community should be undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* 2010.

Recommendation 6

Management of any archaeological objects uncovered on site should be determined in consultation with the relevant Aboriginal stakeholders, as well as OEH.

12. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

12.1. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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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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