

Executive Summary

RESULTS

- The study area is partly within areas of the State and potentially Nationally significant sites of the Government Farm and Government Watermill, and their associated cultural landscape belonging to the beginnings of British settlement in Australia.
- The study area is also within the World Heritage Area (WHA) buffer zone and is immediately adjacent to the buffer zone.

SEARs

This report provides a detailed response to the key issues relating to the WHA values of this Western Sydney Stadium site. Among which are the following:

- **Visual and Heritage impacts**

The Proposal will pose some direct physical impacts on potential sites of State archaeological significance and visual impacts on significant views from the OGH WHA and other items of National, State and Local significance. The design and landscaping of the stadium has been developed to reduce these impacts to manageable levels. Subject to the implementation of the recommended mitigative measures, we are of the opinion that the visual and other heritage impacts are within the limits of acceptable change for the site.

- **World Heritage Area Conservation Agreement**

The WSS design is considered to comply with the Conservation Agreement and has used appropriate mitigation strategies to minimise impacts from the design on the World Heritage Values of the Old Government House and the Parramatta Park Domain.

- **Compliance with Urban Design and Public Realm Guidelines**

The new stadium is considered to comply with those guidelines relating to conservation of heritage values.

- **Historical Archaeology**

It is anticipated that there should be no impact on the archaeology of the State and National Significant sites of Government Farm and the Government Watermill. This is a condition of consent in the Stage 1 approval. To ensure this outcome it will be necessary to have a focused archaeological program of monitoring and testing as outlined in the Archaeological Research Design in Section 13. Some archaeology of local significance may be impacted by the work but this is likely to be limited to unknown relics and works such as drains and later features or artefacts. Where warranted these would be subject to archaeological excavation and recording. As identified in the SEARs the following reports have been completed:

- An Archaeological Assessment was completed for the WSS project and submitted as part of the S96 application. It relates to the whole of the precinct. Specific impacts associated with the Stage 2 design are addressed in Section 10.
- An Archaeological Research Design (ARD) is included in Section 13 which address Stage 1, S96 and Stage 2 works which could impact on archaeology.

MITIGATION STRATEGY

1. Establish a Design Review Panel to ensure positive urban design, architectural heritage outcomes. This panel should include a member of the Heritage Council and a heritage landscape specialist. LED
2. Essential to comply with the *Conservation Agreement for the protection and conservation of World Heritage Values and National Heritage Values of the Australian Convict Sites, Old Government House and Domain, Parramatta, New South Wales*.
3. Use of Exterior Finishes - mid to dark grey finish for the lower exterior structural steel elements.
4. No signage is to be located on the southern side or southeast corner of the WSS in compliance with the Conservation Agreement.
5. New landscaping, particularly along the southern edge of the WSS building should be selected to reduce as much as possible the visual bulk of the stadium as viewed from the OGHDL WHL area and other significant places. A mix of native evergreen canopy trees should be selected with height at maturity of 20m to 40m and proven performance in the local environment. Species should also be chosen to minimise public safety risks and planting locations will need to be chosen to minimise potential conflicts with archaeology.
6. Careful management of existing significant trees.
7. Improvement of visual and access connection to the Old Kings Oval.
8. Introduction of 200 new trees to replace those lost by the WSS development. These should be locally indigenous species, placed in locations selected according to the following parameters:
 - to minimise visual impacts of the stadium when viewed from significant viewing points in the public domain, including listed heritage items;
 - to minimise impacts on known or potential archaeological deposits;
 - to provide shade and other amenity for site users;
 - to allow the stadium to function in accordance with its brief.
9. Measures should be taken to ensure that during construction there is no runoff or spillage of concrete, adhesives or other waste from the site that might have a negative impact on heritage values or the environment generally.
10. If the Proposal is approved, the notification of any transfer of land relating to the State Heritage Register (SHR) items should be provided to the Office of Environment and Heritage. The Parramatta Park Master Plan, which was approved by the Heritage Council in November 2015, would need to be updated to include the approved works or any change in ownership and/or curtilage.
11. The detailed Archaeological Assessment for the WSS precinct provides analysis of the archaeological potential and significance for the site. This was lodged with the S96 application.
12. The Archaeological Research Design sets out methodologies for managing the proposed development works and the retention of significance with the Government Farm and the Government Watermill.
13. All archaeological work in the precinct involves historical archaeology of the highest significance and therefore the Excavation Directors need to be suitably qualified and meet the Excavation Director Criteria for sites of State significance and have proven expertise in early colonial sites.

CONTENTS

| | | |
|------------|--|-----------|
| 1.0 | Background | 1 |
| 1.1 | Introduction..... | 1 |
| 1.2 | Overview of Proposed Development | 1 |
| 1.3 | Concept Proposal (SSD 7534)..... | 2 |
| 1.4 | Site Description | 3 |
| 1.5 | EP&BPC Act Conditions and SEARs..... | 5 |
| 1.6 | Report Methodology | 7 |
| 1.7 | Consultation with the NSW Heritage Council | 7 |
| 1.8 | Previous reports | 8 |
| 1.9 | Authorship..... | 8 |
| 1.10 | Acknowledgements | 9 |
| 1.11 | Limitations and Disclaimer | 9 |
| 1.12 | Copyright, moral rights and right to use | 9 |
| 1.13 | Glossary of Heritage & Archaeological Terms..... | 10 |
| 1.14 | Abbreviations | 12 |
| 2.0 | Statutory Context | 13 |
| 2.1 | Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999..... | 13 |
| 2.2 | NSW Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, 1979..... | 19 |
| 2.3 | Heritage Act 1977 (NSW) | 21 |
| 2.4 | Parramatta Park Planning Context | 24 |
| 2.5 | Archaeological Zoning Plans..... | 24 |
| 2.6 | Non-statutory Heritage | 24 |
| 3.0 | The Site | 27 |
| 3.1 | The Study Area | 27 |
| 3.2 | Views around the Wester Sydney Stadium | 29 |
| 4.0 | Historical Context | 33 |
| 4.1 | Natural Landscape..... | 33 |
| 4.2 | Aboriginal Occupation..... | 33 |
| 4.3 | Parramatta Beginnings (1788-1789) | 33 |
| 4.4 | Early Agriculture and the Government Farm (1790s) | 34 |
| 4.5 | Later uses of the Government Farm (1800-1810s) | 40 |
| 4.6 | Government Watermill and Race (1799-c.1820) | 43 |
| 4.7 | Sports & Leisure - Later Park Uses | 50 |
| 5.0 | Heritage Significance | 60 |
| 5.1 | Heritage Significance | 60 |
| 5.2 | Statement of Significance for the historical archaeology of the WSS site | 64 |
| 6.0 | The Proposal | 65 |
| 6.1 | Brief Description of the Proposal | 65 |
| 6.2 | The Public Domain and Stadium | 65 |
| 6.3 | Proposed works to be undertaken under previous applications | 65 |
| 7.0 | Analysis of Views and Adjoining Landscape | 76 |
| 7.1 | World Heritage Views..... | 76 |
| 7.2 | Other Views from Significant Places | 78 |
| 7.3 | Adjoining Development and Landscape Character | 78 |

| | | |
|-------------|---|------------|
| 7.4 | Visual Absorption Capacity..... | 79 |
| 7.5 | Photomontages showing before and after views with the Western Sydney Stadium | 80 |
| 8.0 | Existing Vegetation and Proposed Tree Removals | 88 |
| 8.1 | Existing Vegetation..... | 88 |
| 8.2 | Trees already approved for removal | 88 |
| 8.3 | Additional trees proposed for removal..... | 88 |
| 9.0 | The World Heritage Area Buffer Zone & Impacts | 90 |
| 9.1 | The Buffer Zone | 90 |
| 9.2 | Impacts | 91 |
| 10.0 | Historical Archaeology Impacts | 92 |
| 10.1 | Civil Works..... | 92 |
| 10.2 | Government Farm | 92 |
| 10.3 | Government Watermill | 94 |
| 11.0 | Assessment of Heritage Impacts from Development | 95 |
| 11.1 | New Development Adjacent to Heritage Items | 95 |
| 11.2 | Impacts on Significant Views..... | 96 |
| 11.3 | Impacts on Landscape and Trees | 97 |
| 11.4 | Impacts on the OGH D WHA and Parramatta Park | 97 |
| 11.5 | Assessment of Compliance with OGH D WHA Conservation Agreement | 97 |
| 11.6 | Compliance with Western Sydney Stadium Urban Design and Public Realm Guidelines | 99 |
| 11.7 | Aspects of Proposal considered likely to retain and / or enhance significance..... | 103 |
| 11.8 | Aspects of Proposal considered likely to have a possible adverse impact on significance | 103 |
| 12.0 | Mitigation of Impacts..... | 104 |
| 12.1 | The Stadium..... | 104 |
| 12.2 | Bulk Excavation and Civil Works..... | 106 |
| 12.3 | Relocation of Parramatta Swimming Centre..... | 107 |
| 13.0 | Archaeological Research Design, Stage 1, S96 & Stage 2 | 108 |
| 13.1 | Background..... | 108 |
| 13.2 | Government Farm | 109 |
| 13.3 | The Government Watermill | 109 |
| 13.4 | Research Questions | 109 |
| 13.5 | Excavation Methodology..... | 110 |
| 14.0 | Bibliography..... | 112 |
| 14.1 | Maps and plans | 112 |
| 14.2 | Images | 114 |
| 14.3 | Unpublished manuscripts..... | 114 |
| 14.4 | Printed works (published, unpublished and online) | 114 |

Appendices

Appendix 1: View lines to Old Kings School from Old Government House

Document Status

| Name | Date | Purpose | Author | Approved |
|---------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Preliminary Draft 1 | 20/2/2017 | Client Review | Dr Nadia Iacono, Dr Mary Casey, Nick Pitt Chris Betteridge | Mary Casey |
| Draft 2 | 24/2/2017 | DoP | Mary Casey Chris Betteridge | Mary Casey |
| Draft 3 | 24/2/2017 | DOP | Mary Casey Chris Betteridge | Mary Casey Tony Lowe |
| Final | 5/3/2017 | Update plans and study area | Mary Casey | Mary Casey |

Western Sydney Stadium – Stage 2 (Design & Construct) Statement of Heritage Impact

1.0 Background

1.1 Introduction

This report supports a State Significant Development (SSD) Development Application (DA) submitted to the Minister for Planning pursuant to Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

The Application (referred to as SSDA16_8175) follows the approval of a Stage 1 SSD DA (SSDA16_7534) in December 2016. The Stage 1 SSDA sets out a Concept Proposal for the redevelopment of the Western Sydney Stadium and future supporting uses. In summary, the Stage 1 Consent includes the following components:

- **Concept Proposal** for the Western Sydney Stadium, including building envelopes, a new 30,000 seat stadium, 500 surface car parking spaces, access, ancillary infrastructure and landscaping; and
- **Detailed works** for staged demolition and removal of the existing stadium and associated infrastructure and the Parramatta Swimming Centre.

1.2 Overview of Proposed Development

The proposal relates to a detailed ('Stage 2') DA for the detailed design and construction of the stadium. This SSD DA seeks approval for the following components of the development:

- Detailed design of the stadium, public domain and car parking spaces;
- Construction and use of the 30,000 seat stadium including:
 - General Admission Facilities including bars, food and drink stalls, amenities and viewing areas;
 - A function centre and kitchen facility;
 - Associated Stadium facilities including player and coaching facilities, media and press conference rooms, security and stadium manager's facilities;
 - Waste storage and loading dock;
- Construction and embellishment of the public domain including:
 - Outdoor sporting and recreation facilities;
 - Public plazas and entertainment areas;
 - General landscaping works;
- Provision of up to 500 car parking spaces with vehicle access to the development from O'Connell Street and internal roads for vehicular circulation;
- Provision of signage zones, lighting and other ancillary stadium elements;
- Pedestrian access and footpath upgrades along O'Connell Street; and
- Extension and augmentation of physical infrastructure / utilities as required.

1.3 Concept Proposal (SSD 7534)

Infrastructure NSW (INSW), on behalf of Venues NSW, submitted a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) for the Stage 1 concept proposal and demolition of the existing stadium in July 2016. Consent for the Stage 1 SSDA was granted by the Minister for Planning on 7 December 2016 and includes:

- a maximum total GFA of approximately 60,000 m² (excluding the playing pitch) for the stadium development, including:
 - additional seating for approximately 10,000 more spectators in a seating bowl with 30,000 seats, including 27,000 general admission seats and 3,000 corporate seats;
 - playing pitch;
 - five levels of premium box/terrace, function/lounge offerings and a number of suite offerings;
 - flood lighting, stadium video screens and other ancillary fittings;
 - additional facilities for team, media, administration and amenity, including:
 - police facility and security office;
 - players changing rooms;
 - ticket gates and ticket boxes;
 - media interview rooms;
 - green room;
 - production suite and joint operation control room;
 - event briefing rooms;
 - hirers office and patron services offices;
 - first aid facilities;
 - loading docks for deliveries; and
 - food, beverage and retail facilities.
- a maximum GFA of approximately 20,000 m² for future development of ancillary uses within the northern corner of the Site;
- transport, parking and accessibility;
- public domain elements; and
- landscaping elements throughout the Site.

1.3.1 Design Excellence and Project Tender Phase

Since receiving the development consent for Stage 1, Venues NSW have appointed Lendlease as the contractor for the Stage 2 detailed design and the demolition and construction of the stadium. The tender process also served as a competitive design process in accordance with the Director General's Design Excellence Guidelines and Clause 7.10 of the *Parramatta Local Environmental Plan 2011*.

1.5.1 Site Establishment Works Modification

A modification application (MOD 1) was made to the Stage 1 DA pursuant to Section 96(2) of the EP&A Act in February 2017. The modification seeks to expand the approved range of site preparation works to include piling and remediation/earthworks, as outlined below:

- Remediation works comprising the excavation and storage of contaminated materials and bulk excavation. Contaminated materials will be stored on site and capped below ground in accordance with the recommendations outlined in the Remedial Action Plan.

- Piling works which will comprise the driving and drilling of concrete piles to establish foundations for the construction of a stadium located within the Stage 1 building envelope.

The modification application is currently under assessment by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) and is awaiting determination.

1.4 Site Description

The Western Sydney Stadium is located at 11-13 O’Connell Street, within the Parramatta Park on the north-western edge of the Parramatta CBD. It is bound to the south and west by the Parramatta Park and the Parramatta River, the Parramatta Rugby Leagues Club to the north and O’Connell Street to the east. The Site is located within the City of Parramatta local government area (LGA).

A locational context plan and aerial study area are provided at Figure 1.1 and Figure 1.2. The site has an area of approximately 95,000m² and owned by Venues NSW and The Parramatta Park Trust and is irregular in shape as illustrated in Figure 1.2 below. An overlay plan identifying potential archaeological sites is provided in Figure 1.3.

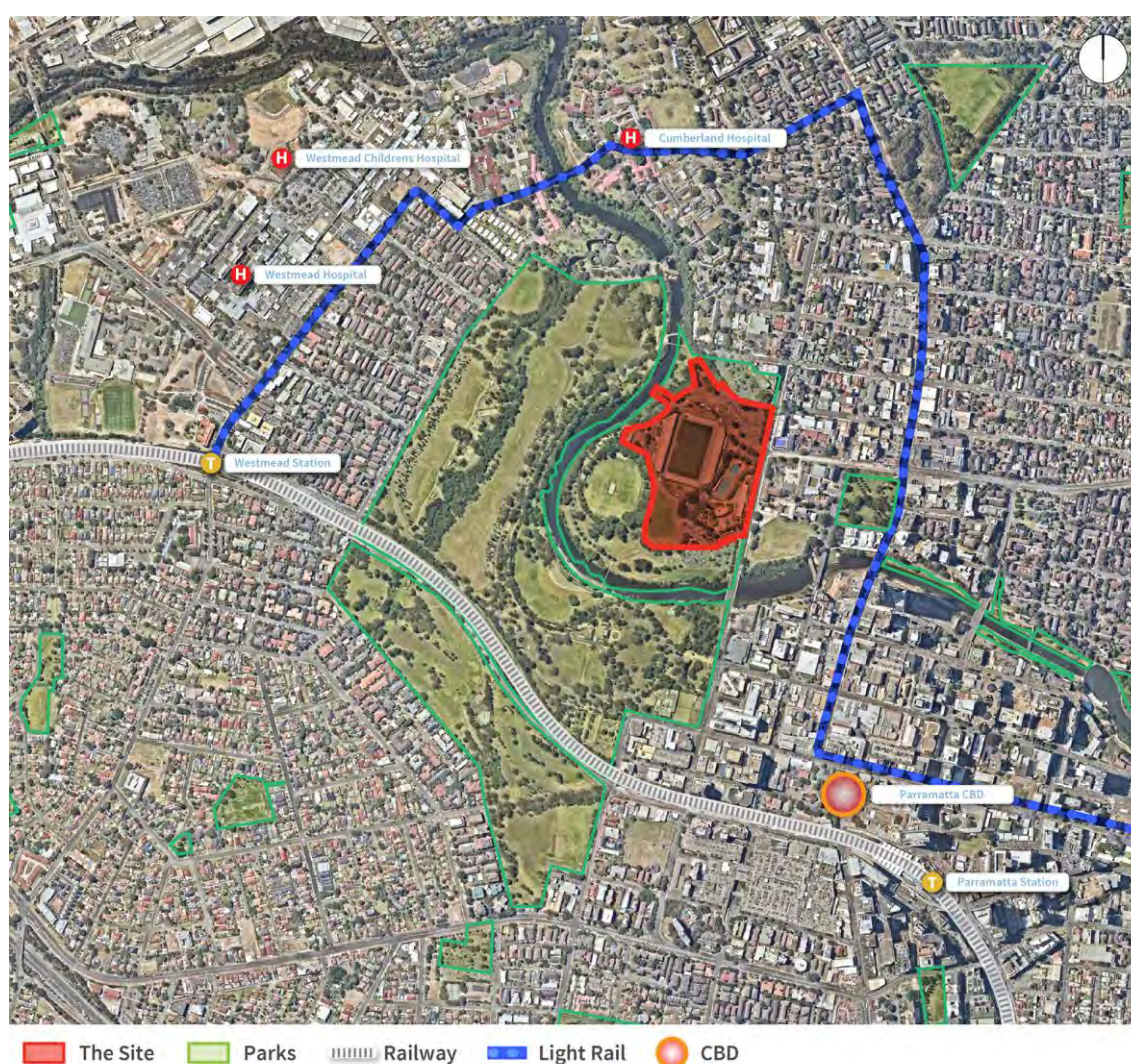


Figure 1.1: Site context plan. Lendlease 2017.



 The Site

Figure 1.2: Study area aerial plan. Lendlease 2017.

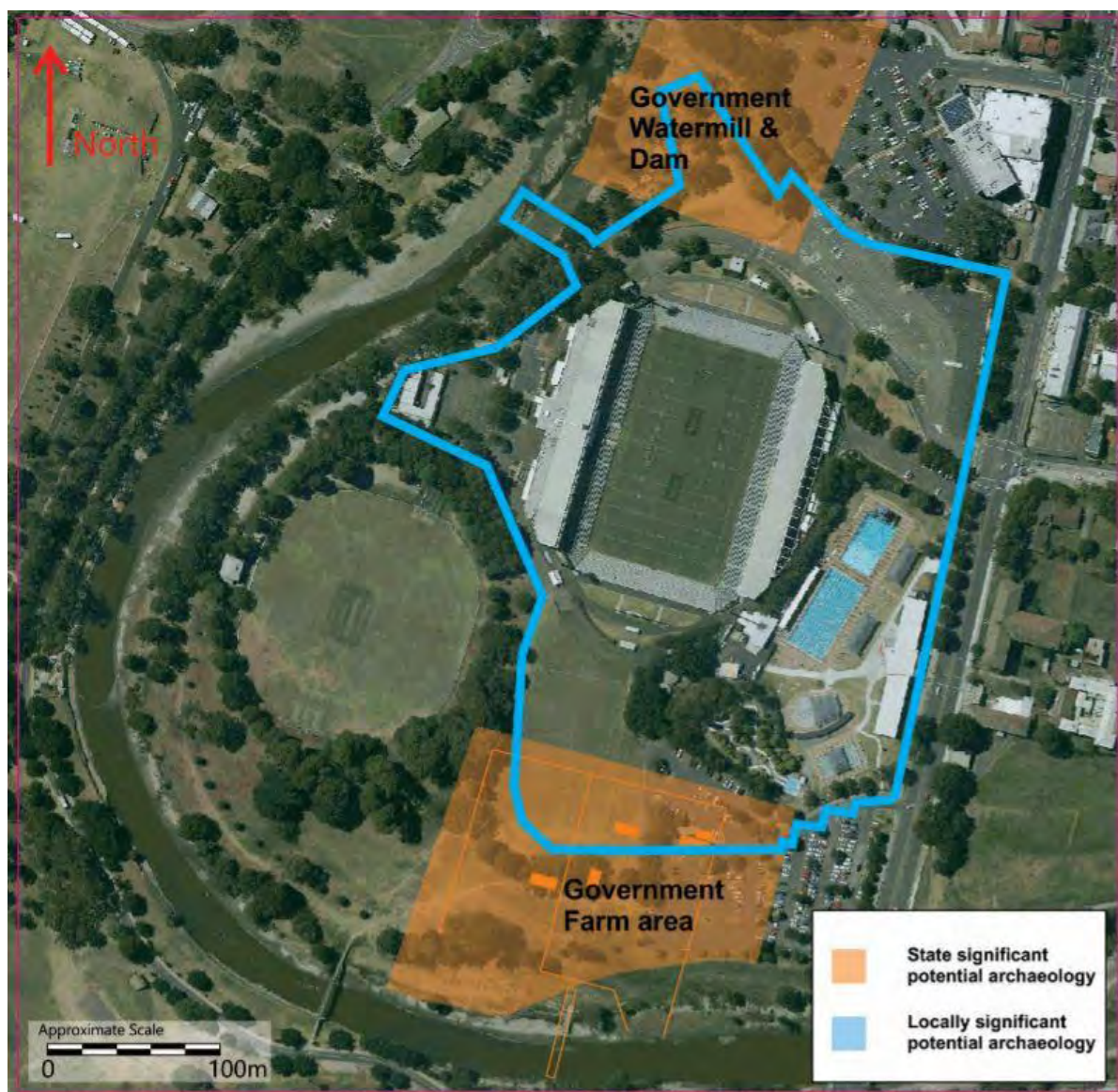


Figure 1.3: The study area (blue) overlaid on the existing site with the existing curtilages of the archaeological sites of the Government Farm (south) and Government Watermill (north) as identified in Casey & Lowe 2014 and included in the AECOM Stage 1 EIS desktop review. The orange areas have potential to contain archaeology of State significance and also potentially of National significance.

1.5 EP&BPC Act Conditions and SEARs

1.5.1 SSD 7534 Conditions of Consent

The conditions of consent for the Concept Design and Stage 1 demolition works (SSD 7534) include the following requirements related to Historical Archaeology:

Schedule 2 – Conditions of Consent for Concept Proposal

Part B – Conditions to be satisfied in future development applications

Archaeology

B20. Future Development Applications(s) shall include an updated Archaeological Assessment identifying the predicted locations and appropriate buffer zones of archaeological relics in or near the current project boundary area.

The Archaeological Assessment shall include clear mapping to assist in the detailed design of the Future Development Applications to ensure archaeological relics of State and National heritage significance are conserved in-situ and not impacted by the development or associated landscaping, fencing, car parking or service provision.

The Archaeological Assessment must be prepared by a suitably qualified historical archaeologist who meets the Heritage Council's Excavation Directors Criteria for State significant archaeology.

Schedule 3

Part B – Prior to commencement of works

Archaeology

- B12. A historic heritage induction for the site must occur for all personnel undertaking excavation. The induction should include a brief history of the site, prove and discuss a copy of the archaeological exclusion zones and details of how to deal with unexpected finds.
- B13. An unexpected finds protocol must be created to manage the unexpected discovery of potential relics during Stage 1 works. This should include details of what constitutes an archaeological relic of the project, stop work procedures, procedures for contacting a suitably qualified archaeologist to assess the find, and processes for notification and consultation with the Heritage Council. If a relic is uncovered work must cease in the affected area(s) and the Heritage Council of NSW must be notified. Work may only recommence after approval from the Heritage Council. Additional assessment and approval may be required prior to works continuing in the affected area(s) based on the nature of the discovery.

Part C – During Construction

Impact of Below Ground (sub-surface) Works – Non-Aboriginal Relics

- C26. If any archaeological relics are uncovered during the course of the work, then all works shall cease immediately in that area and the OEH Heritage Branch shall be contacted. Depending on the possible significance of the relics, and archaeological assessment and an excavation permit under the NSW Heritage Act 1977 may be required before further works can continue in that area.

1.5.1 SEARs SSD 8175

Key issues of the SEARs for Stage 2 identified below. This report is accompanied by an Archaeological Research Design (ARD) and the Interpretation Strategy. It is noted that a detailed Archaeological Assessment was completed for the S96 modification and forms the basis of the assessment of new archaeological issues for this proposal:

5. Visual Impacts

Provide a visual impact assessment and visual analysis of the proposal from key viewpoints, including important views identified in the *Conservation Agreement for the protection and Conservation of the World Heritage Values and National Heritage Values of the Australian Convict Sites. Old Government House and Domain, Parramatta New South Wales*. The assessment must identify, assess and document views from nearby items of heritage significance and the public domain that could potentially be impacted by the proposal. The analysis is to identify key vantage points considering visually sensitive areas.

8. Heritage

- Provide a heritage impact statement (HIS) in accordance with the guidelines in the NSW Heritage Manual which:

- identifies all heritage items within and in the vicinity of the site including built heritage, landscapes and archaeology, and detailed mapping of these items, and why the items and site(s) are of heritage
- significance;
- assess the proposal, including the proposed Parkland Transition Zone, against the significance of the adjoining curtilage of the State heritage listed Parramatta Park and Old Government House and
- World Heritage buffer curtilage of the World Heritage Listed Australian Convict Sites - Old Government House and the Government Domain;
- provides photomontages to describe the impact of the works on the significance of the item and its setting and what impact the proposed works will have on their significance;
- identifies the impact of the proposal on the on significant landscape elements and trees where it is necessary for them to be removed or relocated within the site;
- details mitigation measures to offset potential impacts on heritage values;
- provides an analysis of compliance with the *Conservation Agreement for the protection and Conservation of the World Heritage Values and National Heritage Values of the Australian Convict Sites. Old Government House and Domain, Parramatta New South Wales*, in particular the implications of development with regard to Annexure A
 - The Property and Highly Sensitive Area and Annexure B – Highly Sensitive Area Controls; and
- addresses the proposal’s consistency with the *Western Sydney Stadium Urban Design and Public Realm Guidelines*.
- Provide an archaeological assessment that identifies the predicted locations and appropriate buffer zones of archaeological relics in or near the current project boundary area.
- Provide an archaeological research design and excavation methodology, based on the archaeological assessment and impact analysis, to support the proposed mitigation strategy.
- Provide a Heritage Interpretation Strategy and Plan that interprets the history and significance of Parramatta Park and Old Government House in public domain areas surrounding the Western Sydney Stadium.

1.6 Report Methodology

This report has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines in the “Statements of Heritage Impacts” section of the *NSW Heritage Manual* (NSW Heritage Office/Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, 1996, as amended). Preparation of the report involved research of readily available documentary material on the site, a site inspection on 17 February 2017 and consultation with the client, the client’s architectural and landscape architectural consultants, the Heritage Division, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and the client. The report includes a brief physical description of the site, its history, a visual analysis, a statement of cultural significance, description of the proposal, impact assessment and recommended mitigative measures.

1.7 Consultation with the NSW Heritage Council

A consultation meeting was held on Tuesday 7 February 2017 in the Heritage Division offices. The attendees at this meeting included:

- Heritage Division, Office of Environment & Heritage
- Nina Pollack
 - Katrina Stankowski, Senior Team Leader
 - Verena Mauldon, Assessment Officer

Western Sydney Stadium Team

- Angus Morten, Lendlease
- Dr Mary Casey, Casey & Lowe
- Chris Betteridge, MUSEscape

During a presentation by Angus Morten a range of issues were discussed and it was agreed that Nina Pollack would organise for the WSS project to give a presentation to the Heritage Council at the beginning of April 2017. This consultation is in compliance with the Stakeholders requirements identified in the Stage 2 SEARs.

1.8 Previous reports

The following reports have specifically considered the archaeological potential of the study area:

Casey & Lowe 2014 *Baseline Archaeological Assessment and Statement for Heritage Impact Historical Archaeology, Cumberland Precinct, Sports & Leisure Precinct, Parramatta North Urban Renewal - Rezoning*, report to UrbanGrowth, October 2014.

AECOM 2016 *Western Sydney Stadium, Technical Working Paper: Historic Heritage*, Western Sydney Stadium EIS, Appendix I, report to Infrastructure NSW, July 2016.

Casey & Lowe 2017 *Western Sydney Stadium, Historical Archaeological Assessment & S96 Modification Heritage Impact Statement*, January 2017.

These reports have been examined in the preparation of this report.

1.9 Authorship

This report has been prepared by Dr Mary Casey, Director, Casey & Lowe, Chris Betteridge, Director **MUSEscape**, Nick Pitt, Archaeologist/Researcher, and Dr Nadia Iacono, Senior Associate, Casey & Lowe. Dr Casey meets the NSW Heritage Council criteria for an Excavation Director of a site containing State significant archaeology. It has been reviewed by Tony Lowe, Director, Casey & Lowe.

Chris Betteridge: BSc (Sydney), MSc (Museum Studies, Leicester), AMA (London), MICOMOS, Director of Betteridge Consulting Pty Ltd t/a **MUSEscape**, a Sydney-based heritage consultant in private practice since 1991. Prior to that, for ten years Chris was Specialist – Environmental / Landscape with the NSW planning departments, advising the Heritage Council of NSW on matters relating to cultural landscape conservation and for four years he was Assistant Director (Community Relations), Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney. Chris has considerable recent experience in the assessment of heritage values and heritage impact assessment on many significant buildings and cultural landscapes in NSW including the following sites in Parramatta:

- North Parramatta Historic Sites – landscape input to Consolidated Conservation Management Plan.
- North Parramatta Urban Transformation Cultural Landscape Assessment.
- Burramatta Aboriginal Landscape Trail Interpretation Strategy, Parramatta Park (with Margaret Betteridge).
- Endeavour Energy Parramatta West Zone Substation Interpretation strategy (with Margaret Betteridge).

Dr Mary Casey is principal of a major archaeology and heritage practice and has extensive experience in historical research and non-Aboriginal archaeology, particularly in Parramatta, where she has directed investigations in Parramatta Park, Parramatta Square, the Parramatta North

Historic Sites and many other sites in Parramatta. The team at Casey & Lowe have won a number of heritage and archaeological awards: <http://www.caseyandlowe.com.au/awards.htm>

The report utilises material from a number of previous reports prepared by Casey & Lowe, including *Baseline Archaeological Assessment and Statement for Heritage Impact Historical Archaeology, Cumberland Precinct, Sports & Leisure Precinct, Parramatta North Urban Renewal - Rezoning*, report to UrbanGrowth, October 2014 (BAA) and *Western Sydney Stadium, Historical Archaeological Assessment & S96 Modification Heritage Impact Statement* (January 2017).

1.10 Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank the following individuals for their kind assistance in the preparation of this report:

- Al Baxter, Populous.
- Tony Lowe, Casey & Lowe, Archaeology and Heritage.
- Verena Mauldon, Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage.
- Angus Morten, Lend Lease.
- Nina Pollock, Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage.
- Katrina Stankowski, Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage.
- Scott van den Boogaard, Aspect Studios.
- Jillian Comber, Comber Consultants

1.11 Limitations and Disclaimer

This document may only be used for the purpose for which it was commissioned and in accordance with the contract between Casey & Lowe (the consultant) and Lend Lease (the client). The scope of services was defined in consultation with the client, by time and budgetary constraints imposed by the client, and the availability of reports and other data on the site. Changes to available information, legislation and schedules are made on an ongoing basis and readers should obtain up-to-date information and satisfy themselves that the statutory requirements have not changed since the report was written. Casey & Lowe accepts no liability or responsibility whatsoever for or in respect of any use of or reliance upon this report and its supporting material by any third party. Information provided is not intended to be a substitute for site specific assessment or legal advice in relation to any matter. Unauthorised use of this report in any form is prohibited.

1.12 Copyright, moral rights and right to use

Historical sources and reference material used in the preparation of this report are acknowledged and referenced in the footnotes and Bibliography. Reasonable effort has been made to identify, contact, acknowledge and obtain permission to use material from the relevant copyright owners. Unless otherwise specified or agreed, copyright in this report vests in Casey & Lowe and in the owners of any pre-existing historical source or reference material.

Casey & Lowe and **MUSEcape** assert their Moral Rights in this work, unless otherwise acknowledged, in accordance with the *(Commonwealth) Copyright (Moral Rights) Amendment Act 2000*. The moral rights of Casey & Lowe and **MUSEcape** include the attribution of authorship, the right not to have the work falsely attributed and the right to integrity of authorship.

1.13 Glossary of Heritage & Archaeological Terms

1.13.1 Heritage Terms & Definitions

Conservation terms used in this are those used in the Burra Charter of Australia ICOMOS, the body representing professional heritage practitioners in this country. Key definitions are listed below.

Place means site, area, land, landscape, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, and may include components, contents, spaces and views.

Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects. Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups.

Fabric means all the physical material of the place including components, fixtures, contents, and objects.

Conservation means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance.

Preservation means maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

Restoration means returning the existing fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

Reconstruction means returning a place to a known earlier state and is distinguished from restoration by the introduction of new material into the fabric.

Adaptation means modifying a place to suit the existing use or a proposed use.

Use means the functions of a place, as well as the activities and practices that may occur at the place.

Compatible use means a use which respects the cultural significance of a place. Such a use involves no, or minimal, impact on cultural significance.

Setting means the area around a place, which may include the visual catchment.

Related place means a place that contributes to the cultural significance of another place.

1.13.2 Archaeological Glossary

Historical Archaeology (Non-Indigenous/European)

Historical Archaeology (in NSW) is the study of the physical remains of the past, in association with historical documents, since the British occupation of NSW in 1788. As well as identifying these remains the study of this material can help elucidate the processes, historical and otherwise, which have created our present surroundings. Historical archaeology includes an examination of how the late 18th and 19th-century arrivals lived and coped with a new and alien environment, what they ate, where and how they lived, the consumer items they used and their trade relations, and how gender and cultural groups interacted. The material remains studied include:

- Archaeological Sites:

- below ground: these contains relics which include building foundations, occupation deposits, rubbish pits, cesspits, wells, other features, and artefacts.
- above ground: buildings, works, industrial structures and relics that are intact or ruined.
 - cultural landscapes: major foreshore reclamation
 - maritime sites: infrastructure and shipbuilding
 - shipwrecks
 - structures associated with maritime activities.

Archaeological Potential

Archaeological potential is here used and defined as a site's potential to contain archaeological relics which fall under the provisions of the *Heritage Act 1977* (amended). This potential is identified through historical research and by judging whether current building or other activities have removed all evidence of known previous land use.

Archaeological Site

A place that contains evidence of past human activity. Below ground sites include building foundations, occupation deposits, features and artefacts. Above ground archaeological sites include buildings, works, industrial structures and relics that are intact or ruined.

Archaeological Investigation or Excavation

The manual excavation of an archaeological site. This type of excavation on historic sites usually involves the stratigraphic excavation of open areas.

Archaeological Monitoring

Archaeological monitoring is recommended for those areas where the impact of the works is not considered to mean the destruction of significant archaeological fabric. Nevertheless, the disturbance of features both suspected and unsuspected is possible. In order to provide for the proper assessment and recording of these features an archaeologist should inspect the works site at intervals they consider to be adequate and to be 'at call' in case the contractor uncovers remains that should be assessed by the archaeologist.

It is not anticipated that monitoring would impact on the planned works or unduly hold up the contractors' work schedules. If recording of features was necessary, it would be carried out as quickly as possible so that any time delays are minimised.

Archaeological Testing

This typically happens prior to the commencement of the proposed works to determine if there are potential issues in an area where the discovery of relics may require redesign or reconsideration of works. Testing will require an approval from the Heritage Council or its Heritage Division delegate. The need for testing can be discussed with the Heritage Division.

Research Design

A set of questions which can be investigated using archaeological evidence and a methodology for addressing them. A research design is intended to ensure that archaeological investigations focus on genuine research needs. It is an important tool that ensures that when archaeological resources are destroyed by excavation, their information content can be preserved and can contribute to current and relevant knowledge.

Research Potential

The ability of archaeological evidence, through analysis and interpretation, to provide information about a site that could not be derived from any other source and which contributes to the archaeological significance of that site and its 'relics'.¹

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.
- (NSW *Heritage Act 1977*, Definitions, Part 1.4)

1.14 Abbreviations

| | |
|-------|--|
| ACM | asbestos containing material |
| BAA | Baseline Archaeological Assessment – specifically the 2014 Casey & Lowe report, <i>Baseline Archaeological Assessment</i> |
| HLRV | Historic Land Records Viewer (http://images.maps.nsw.gov.au/pixel.htm) |
| LEP | Local Environmental Plan |
| LPI | Land and Property Information (NSW) |
| NHL | National Heritage List |
| NLA | National Library of NSW |
| NMA | National Museum of Australia |
| PPT | Parramatta Park Trust |
| n.d. | not dated |
| SLNSW | State Library of NSW |
| SHR | State Heritage Register |
| SRNSW | State Archives and Records Authority of NSW |
| WHA | World Heritage Area |
| WHL | World Heritage Listing |
| WSS | Western Sydney Stadium |

¹ Taken from the *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'*, 2009:11.

2.0 Statutory Context

The Western Sydney Stadium project is proposed in an area that contains places of significant heritage value that have been identified on several different heritage registers and lists and as such the project is subject to the provisions of a number of different pieces of statutory legislation. The key pieces of legislation relevant to the project are identified below.

2.1 Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) provides a statutory framework for protecting and managing significant environmental and cultural heritage places, flora, fauna and environmental communities. The Act establishes the National Heritage List (NHL) and the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL) and provides protection for places included in the two lists. The Act also provides protection for those Australian places on the World Heritage List (WHL).

2.1.1 World Heritage List

'Old Government House and Domain', a significant portion of Parramatta Park is listed on the World Heritage List (WHL) as part of the Australian Convict Sites listing.² Together the sites represent the global phenomenon of convictism - the forced migration of convicts to penal colonies in the 18th and 19th centuries - and global developments in the punishment of crime in modern times. The Australian Convict Sites are the preeminent examples of our rich convict history, with more than 3000 convict sites remaining around Australia. This is unique in the world today. In 2007 the importance of the Australian convict memory to all humankind was recognised when some of Australia's convict records were included in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register.

2.1.2 National Heritage List

The National Heritage List (NHL) is a list of natural, historic and Indigenous places of outstanding significance. It is managed by Australian Government. The NHL includes 'Old Government House and the Government Domain – Parramatta' as a place of National heritage significance for its historic association with British colonial settlement from 1788.³ The NHL curtilage does not include the present study area (Figure 2.3).

The study area is also to the south of the Former Female Factory Parramatta, which is presently under assessment for listing as a place on the National Heritage List. The proposed boundary for this listing includes the Norma Parker Centre, which formerly was the site of the Roman Catholic Orphan School (1844-1886) and the Parramatta Industrial Girls' School (1886-1974). The current list of NHL assessments anticipates that the proposed listing will be assessed by 30 June 2019.⁴

2.1.3 Conservation Agreement

The Commonwealth, State and Local governments entered into a 'Conservation agreement for the protection and conservation of the World Heritage Values and National Heritage values of the Australian Convict Sites, Old Government House and Domain, Parramatta New South Wales'.

The World Heritage Listing identified a **buffer zone** which extends across the river and into the northwestern part of the study area (Figure 2.1, Figure 2.2). In addition, the Conservation

² <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1306/> [accessed 24/01/2017].

³ http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl?mode=place_detail;place_id=105957 [accessed 24/01/2017].

⁴ <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/organisations/australian-heritage-council/national-heritage-assessments/parramatta-female-factory-precinct>; <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/pages/8ac00639-6069-454e-a191-e6b8a3eed9a2/files/fpal-amalgamated-june2016.pdf> [accessed 27/01/2017].

Agreement identified a **‘highly sensitive’** area which includes portions of the present study area (Figure 2.2). These were outlined in detail in *Development in Parramatta City and the impact on Old Government House and Domain’s World and national Heritage Listed Values, Technical Report* (Planisphere 2012 for Parramatta City Council).

Purpose of this agreement is ‘to provide for the protection and conservation of the World Heritage Vales and National Heritage Values of the Property’ (B).

The six viewpoints listed as having the most values for the significance of the Domain are specifically addressed in Section 7 and the photomontages. The key viewpoint which overlook the WSS site are view 2 and 5. All six listed views are included in the photomontages as well as other significant views. As part of the design work Populous undertook analysis of View 2 in the placement of the proposed new Stadium (Appendix 1). Further to this, the view lines from the WHA are considered important in retaining the outstanding universal value of the site as part of the 11 convict sites listing.

The management of the ‘park edge special area’ is a group of areas which form the backdrop to the park. The WSS is within the Highly Sensitive area and is also Area A2 of the park edge with a number of identified controls (Figure 2.4). The purpose of this agreement is to provide certainty to developments by providing a pathway where they do not require approval under the EPBC Act ‘as long as the proposed development complies with the specified planning controls’.

The identified planning controls for Area A2 in the Conservation Agreement:

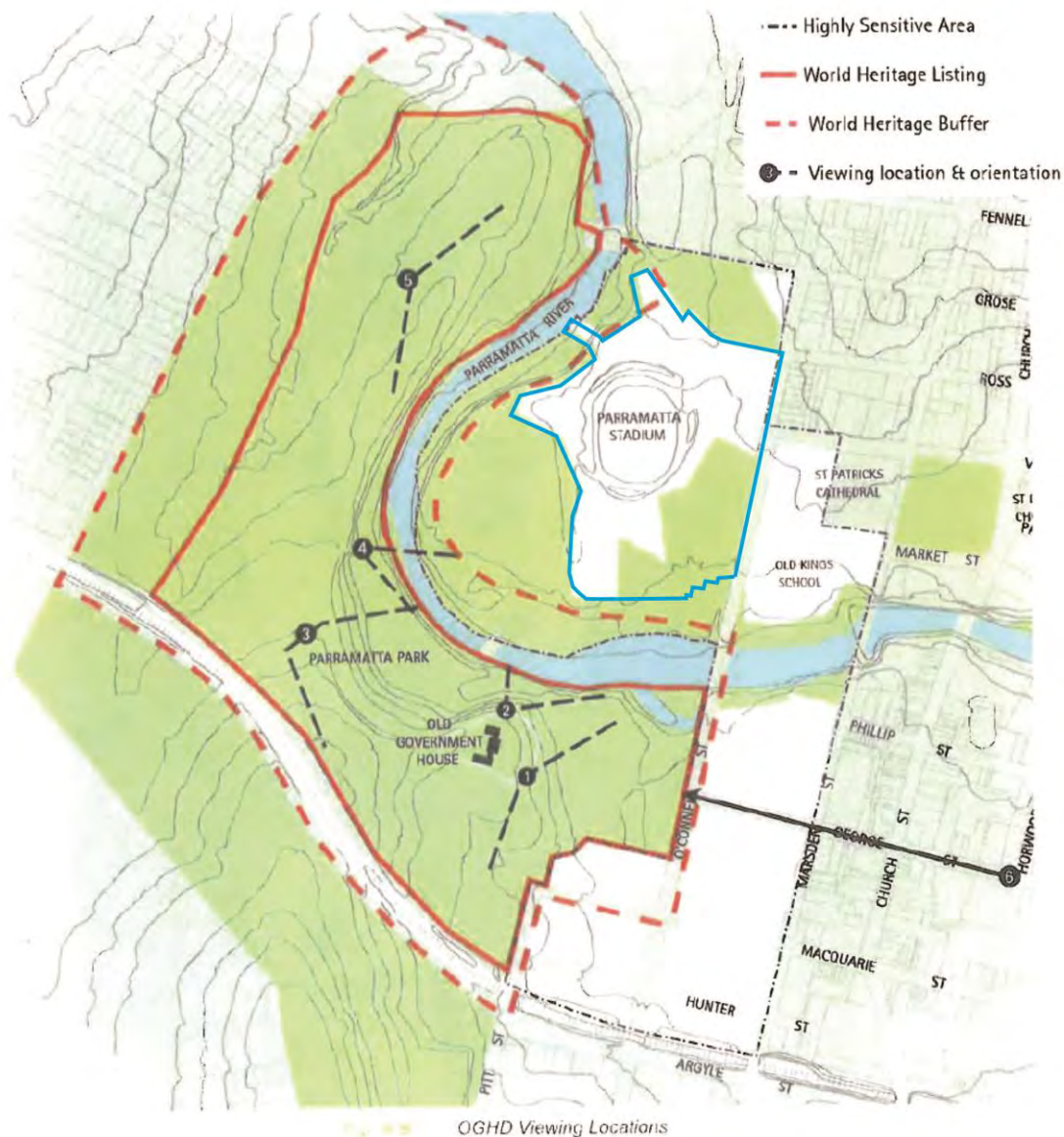
Area A.2 - Parramatta Stadium Site, Parramatta Pool and Car Park

- a. At least 80% of the building height must be contained below the level of the surrounding established tree canopy of Parramatta Park when viewed from any of the key viewing locations from OGH shown in Figure 4.3.3.7.7 [(Figure 11)]. Any building element must be oriented so as to minimise the visual impact from these viewing locations.
- b. External building materials must be muted in colour with matt finishes to minimise contrast with the park surrounds and be complementary to its setting.
- c. Signage on the upper level of buildings must not face the Domain of Parramatta Park.⁵

⁵ Australian Government 2015, <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/pages/4b63db66-1d8e-4427-91d1-951aff442414/files/ca-nsw-convict-sites.pdf>



Figure 2.1: 'Old Government House and Domain, NSW', showing the buffer zone for the WHA extending into the north-western sections of the study area. Australian Convict Sites, map produced by Environmental Resources Information Network Australian Government Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, 2008. Study area added in red. UNESCO website.



| Map reference | View |
|---------------|--|
| 1 | From lawns east and south of OGH towards the city |
| 2 | From NE corner of OGH to Old Kings School |
| 3 | From Bath House area west of OGH to city |
| 4 | Parramatta River views towards city from road within Parramatta Park on west side of river |
| 5 | From Dairy Precinct within Parramatta Park looking north east and south east towards city |
| 6 | West along George Street towards Gatehouse of OGH |

Figure 2.2: Map of Highly Sensitive Area surrounding Old Government House and Domain, World Heritage Site, from 2015 Conservation Agreement. Study area outlined in blue.

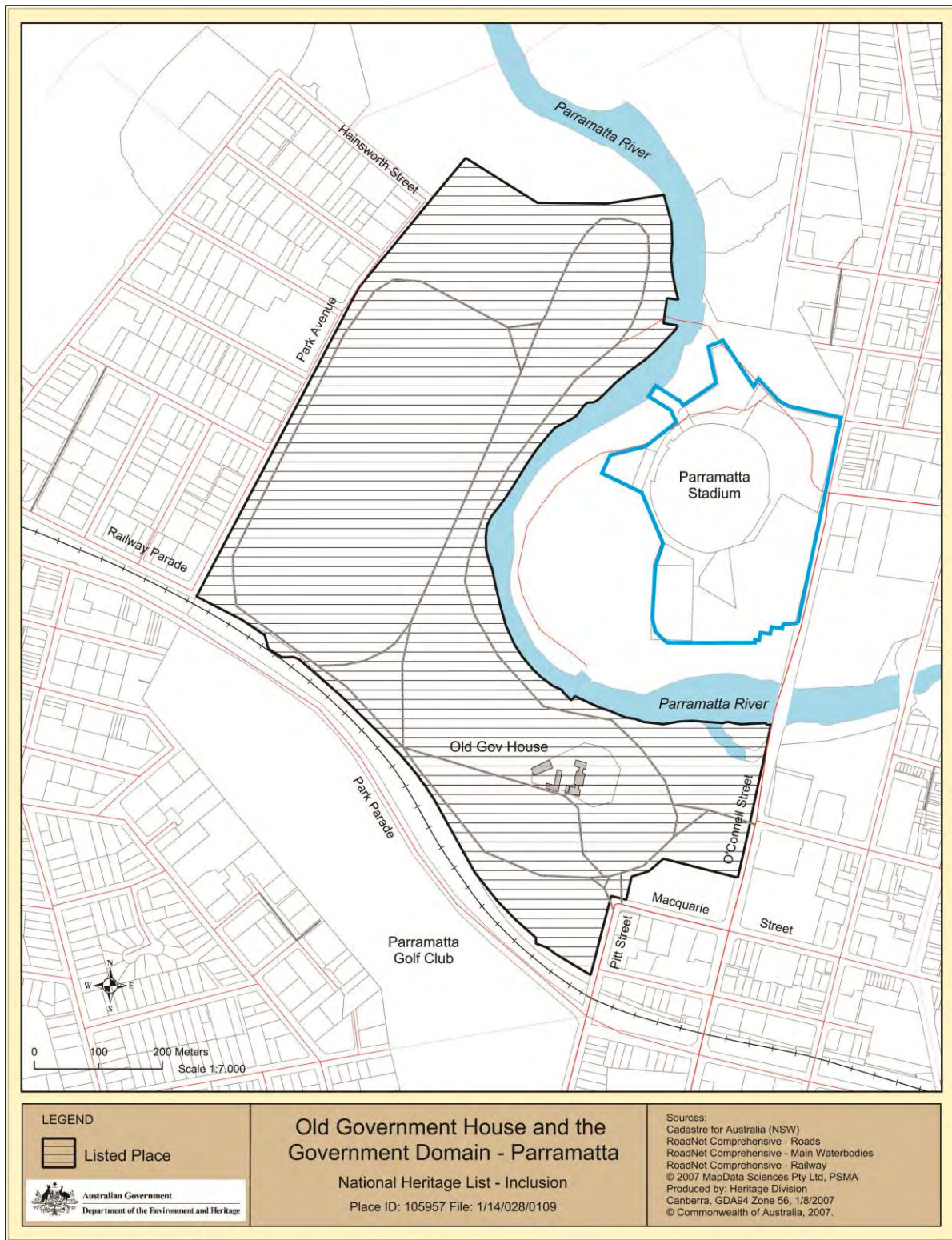


Figure 2.3: National Heritage List map, study area marked in blue.



Figure 4.3.3.7.6 Park Edge Highly Sensitive Area

Figure 2.4: The Western Sydney Stadium is within area A2 within the Conservation Agreement.

2.1.4 Commonwealth Heritage List

The Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL) is a list of natural, Indigenous and historic heritage places owned or controlled by the Australian Government. These include places connected to defence, communications, customs and other government activities that also reflect Australia's development as a nation. The study area is not included in the CHL.

2.1.5 Register of the National Estate

The Register of the National Estate (RNE) was established under the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975 (repealed). The RNE was replaced by the NHL and CHL in 2003. These two lists provide a stronger level of protection for places of national heritage value and ensure that all

proponents, not just the Commonwealth, are required to seek approval for actions that may have a significant impact on the heritage values of these places. The RNE was closed in 2007. Today it is maintained on a non-statutory basis as a publicly available archive and educational resource.

The RNE includes the many significant buildings and structures of the former Female Factory and Lunatic Asylum, the Roman Catholic Orphan School (Girl's Training School Precinct) and Parramatta Gaol. It also includes many items in the immediate vicinity. While the RNE does not provide for direct legal protection or management requirements it is still referred to by members of the community as an indication of the heritage values of the places included on the RNE. It specifically included Parramatta Park but did not identify a curtilage.

2.1.6 Australian Heritage Council

The Australian Heritage Council (AHC) is a body of heritage experts established by the *Australian Heritage Council Act 2003*. The AHC is the Australian Government's independent expert advisory body on heritage matters and plays a key role in assessment, advice and policy formulation and support of major heritage programs. The AHC will have an interest in any proposals for change within the study area and the buffer zone may be called upon by the Minister responsible for the EPBC Act to provide heritage advice.

2.2 NSW Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, 1979

2.2.1 Stage 1 Environmental Impact Statement

An approval has been given for the Stage 1 EIS (SSD 7534) discussed in Section 1.5.1 which included specific guidelines for managing impacts. This was approved as a State significant development under Part 4, Division 4.1 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* (application number SSD 16_7534, Concept and Stage 1 demolition works). The conditions for consent (Section 1.5) included the requirement for:

- an (Historical) Archaeological Assessment by a suitably qualified historical archaeologist who meets the Heritage Council's Excavation Directors Criteria for State significant archaeology.

This Historical Archaeological Assessment was prepared in accordance with the guidelines of the NSW Heritage Council for the assessment of archaeological sites. Dr Mary Casey meets the Heritage Council's criteria for Excavation Directors for State significant sites: *Western Sydney Stadium, Historical Archaeological Assessment & S96 Modification Heritage Impact Statement* (January 2017).

89J Approvals etc - legislation that does not apply

Section 89J of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 states:

1. The following authorisations are not required for State significant development that is authorised by a development consent granted after the commencement of this Division (and accordingly the provisions of any Act that prohibit an activity without such an authority do not apply):
 - ...
 - (c) an approval under Part 4, or an excavation permit under section 139, of the *Heritage Act 1977*,
 - (d) an Aboriginal heritage impact permit under section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.
 - ...
2. Division 8 of Part 6 of the *Heritage Act 1977* does not apply to prevent or interfere with the carrying out of State significant development that is authorised by a development consent granted after the commencement of this Division.

In effect, the Department of Planning and Infrastructure provides consent to impact on relics or works under 89J. Therefore, no approvals are required under S139 or S57 of the *Heritage Act 1977* or S90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. The Department of Planning and Infrastructure will of course consult with the Heritage Council of NSW and the Office of Environment and Planning, both the Heritage Division and the Aboriginal Heritage Section, and the proposed work needs to conform with Heritage Division and Aboriginal Heritage guidelines. This section does not exempt requirements under S146 or S170 of the Heritage Act.

2.2.2 Parramatta Local Environmental Plan 2011

The *Parramatta Local Environmental Plan 2011* (LEP 2011) is Parramatta City Council's primary planning instrument. It contains objectives and controls for a variety of zones across the LGA including heritage items and conservation area. Parramatta Park and Old Government House are listed in Parramatta Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2011 as heritage item I00596. Part of the Parramatta Park LEP curtilage lies within the Western Sydney Stadium study area (Figure 2.5). A number of other sites are adjacent to the study area (Figure 2.5, Table 2.1). Any proposal for change within the study area or to heritage items or heritage conservation areas in the immediate vicinity must address heritage provisions that are included in the LEP.

Table 2.1: Parramatta Local Environmental Plan 2011 Schedule 5 heritage items

| Item Name | Address | Suburb | Significance | LEP No. |
|--|---|------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Parramatta Park and old government house | O'Connell Street | Parramatta | State | I00596 |
| Heritage brick drain | 1A, 1C and 5A Fleet Street, 1 Fennell Street and 73A O'Connell Street | North Parramatta | Local | I360 |
| Roseneath and potential archaeological site | 40 O'Connell Street | Parramatta | State | I00042 |
| Convent of Our Lady of Mercy and associated buildings | 2, 4 and 6 Victoria Road | Parramatta | Local | I550 |
| Parramatta Girls' Training School (Norma Parker Correctional Centre/Kambala) | 1A and 1C Fleet Street | North Parramatta | State | I00811 |
| Marsden Rehabilitation Centre (and potential archaeological site) | 24 and 24A O'Connell Street and 3 Marist Place | Parramatta | State | I00826 and I00771 |
| North Parramatta Conservation Area | | | Local | |

2.2.3 Parramatta Centre Local Environmental Plan 2007

This LEP has now been included within the PCC LEP 2011 as of December 2015. The relevant sections of this legislation which are identified in the Conservation Agreement remain the same mitigation strategies and guidelines for managing impacts by design on the WHA irrespective of this LEP no longer be operational.



Figure 2.5: Parramatta LEP 2011 Heritage Items in the vicinity of the Western Sydney Stadium study area, outlined in blue. Map produced by Casey & Lowe using Department of Planning data, January 2017.

2.3 Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)

2.3.1 State Heritage Register Listing, S57, Heritage Act 1977

Listing a heritage item and the associated archaeology on the State Heritage Register (SHR) means that the State Government has agreed with the assessment of significance of this place as being worthy of conservation into the future for the heritage of the State. Such listings are managed under S57 of the *Heritage Act 1977*. Any impact within the identified curtilage of an SHR area or within it requires an approval from the NSW Heritage Council under S60 of the *Heritage Act 1977* except where this is exempt under S89J of the EP&A Act.

Part of the study area is listed on the NSW State Heritage Register (SHR) as Item 00596, 'Parramatta Park and Old Government House' (Figure 2.6). This is the area of the swimming pool. The impact on the swimming pool was addressed in the EIS and approved in the Concept Approval. Part of the SHR Curtilage lies within the Western Sydney Stadium curtilage (Figure 2.5).

It is noted that the Stage 1 Approval relates to the footprint of SSD 7543 and works outside this footprint would be subject to the *Heritage Act 1977*. Part of this current SSD application is outside the previous footprint and includes areas within the SHR of the site (Figure 2.6).

2.3.2 Management of Archaeology under the NSW Heritage Act 1977

When a site is not being assessed under the *EP&A Act*, Part 4.1 or when work to it is being undertaken outside of the Part 4.1 approval, the main legislative constraint on archaeological remains are the relics provisions of the *Heritage Act 1977*. **Provisions relating to S139 of the**

Heritage Act 1977 are suspended by Part 4.1, Division 4.1, S89J, this suspension relating to the approvals process.

According to Section 139:

- (1) *A person must not disturb or excavate any land 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 unless the disturbance or excavation is carried out in accordance with an excavation permit.*
- (2) *A person must not disturb or excavate any land on which the person has discovered or exposed a relic except in accordance with an excavation permit.*
- ...
- (4) *The Heritage Council may by order published in the Gazette create exceptions to this section, either unconditionally or subject to conditions, in respect of any of the following:*
 - a. *any relic of a specified kind or description,*
 - b. *any disturbance or excavation of a specified kind or description,*
 - c. *any disturbance or excavation of land in a specified location or having specified features or attributes,*
 - d. *any disturbance or excavation of land in respect of which an archaeological assessment approved by the Heritage Council indicates that there is little likelihood of there being any relics in the land.*

A 'relic' is an item of 'environmental heritage'. Environmental heritage is defined by the *Heritage Act 1977* (amended) as:

those places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects, and precincts of State or local heritage significance. (Section 4)

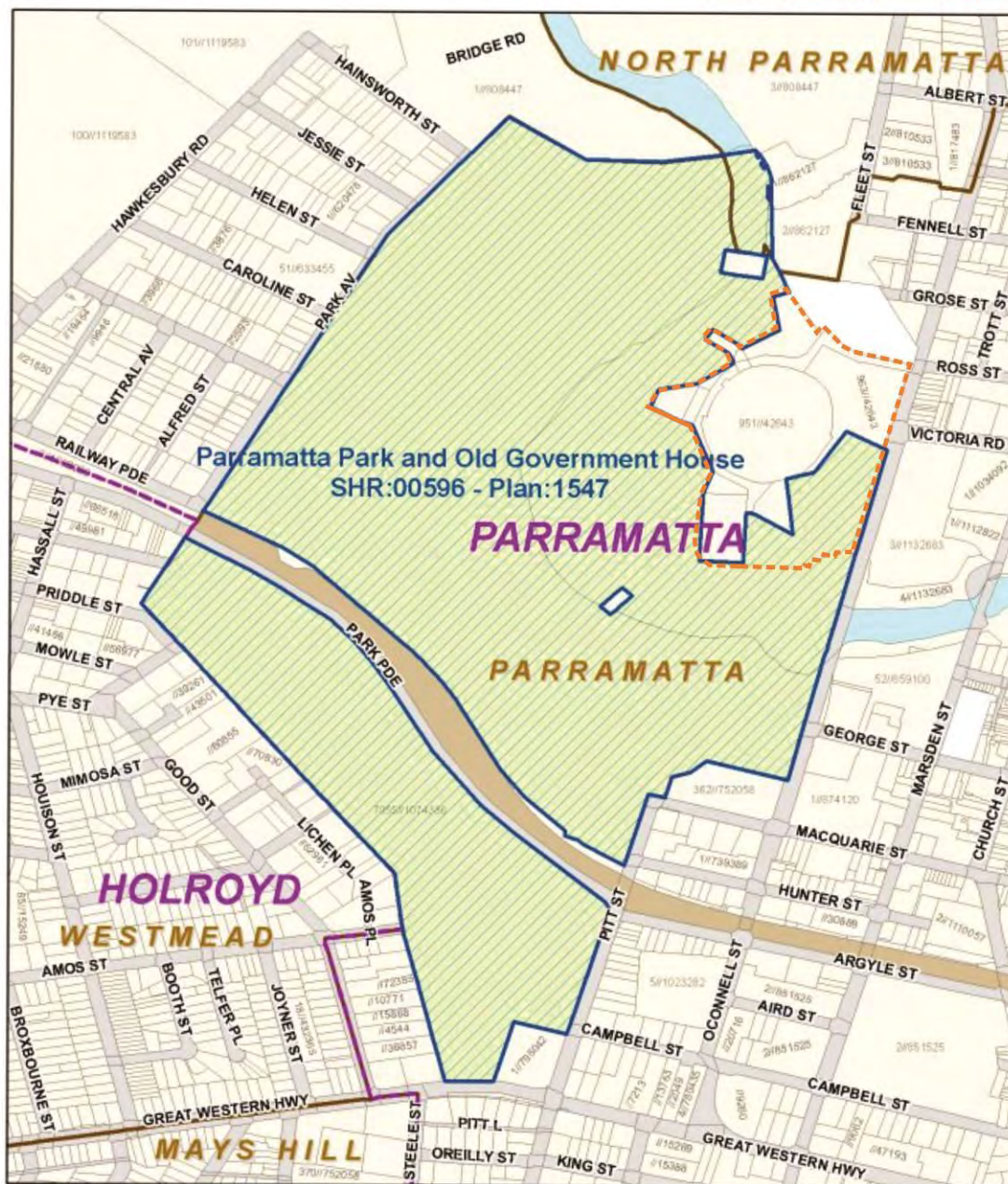
A relic as further defined by the Act as:

- any deposit, 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 4)*

Any item identified as an historical archaeological site or relic cannot be impacted upon without an **excavation permit**. An excavation permit forms an approval from the Heritage Council for permission to 'disturb' a relic.

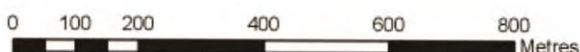
An application for an excavation permit must be made to the Heritage Council of NSW (Section 140) (or its delegate) and it will take approximately three to six weeks to be processed. The application for a permit must nominate a qualified archaeologist to manage the disturbance of the relics. There is a processing fee for each excavation permit application, the details of which can be obtained from the Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage website. It is noted that this part of the Heritage Act is suspended by a Part 4.1 approval.

Heritage Council of New South Wales



State Heritage Register

Gazettal Date: 2 April 1999



Scale: 1:9,000

Produced by: Naomi Nelson

Legend

- SHR Curtilage
- LGAs
- Suburbs
- Land Parcels
- Water
- Roads
- Railways
- NSW Reserves

Figure 2.6: Plan of the SHR boundaries of Parramatta Park. The area of the swimming pool is within Parramatta Park and the SHR boundaries and therefore this section of the SHR boundary is within the study area. Approval for the demolition of the swimming pool was granted in the Stage 1 DA. The archaeological and cultural landscape of the sites of the Government Farm and the Government Watermill both lie partly with the SHR and partly within the WSS study and works area.

2.4 Parramatta Park Planning Context

2.4.1 Conservation & Management Plans

There are a number of draft plans relating to the park but these have not been made available to this project by Parramatta Park and Western Sydney Parklands Trust. The most relevant report is the *Old Government House and Domain Parramatta Park, Management Plan (2009)*. We are aware of other master plans but they have not been made available by Parramatta Park nor are they on their website.

2.4.2 Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Registers

Section 170 of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* requires that State Government agencies prepare a Heritage and Conservation Register that includes all items of environmental heritage that are under their ownership or occupation. Agencies are required to ensure that items on their s170 Heritage Register and on the SHR that are under their care, control and management are maintained with due diligence and in accordance with the State-owned Heritage Management Principles and any heritage management guidelines that may be issued by the Heritage Council of New South Wales. There are a number of S170 items within the study area.

2.5 Archaeological Zoning Plans

The historical archaeological potential of Parramatta generally and Parramatta Park has led to a number of different curtilages being identified for the key sites within the study area. This current report has produced the most reliable analysis of curtilage and archaeological potential and supersedes all earlier reports. For the curtilages themselves we have adopted Casey & Lowe 2014 (Figure 1.3), which was also adopted in the EIS (AECOM 2016a). See *Western Sydney Stadium, Historical Archaeological Assessment & S96 Modification Heritage Impact Statement (January 2017)* for details relating to this section.

2.6 Non-statutory Heritage

There are a number of non-statutory heritage lists which are relevant to the subject site. Some include places and items that are otherwise also included in statutory registers.

The non-statutory heritage lists that have been searched for this report are the Register of the National Estate (RNE), State Heritage Inventory (SHI) (which lists places and items in State and local heritage schedules) and the Register of the National Trust of Australia (NSW).

2.6.1 Burra Charter

The *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter 1999* (The Burra Charter) is widely acknowledged as the principal guiding document for managing places of cultural significance. The Burra Charter defines the basic principles and procedures that should be followed in the conservation of places of heritage significance. The Burra Charter has been adopted as the standard for best practice conservation of heritage places in Australia.

The management of heritage sites in New South Wales should conform to the requirements of the *Burra Charter* of Australia ICOMOS. Many of the following guidelines provide for best practice conservation approaches and can be used to inform all the management of the archaeological remains.

2.6.2 National Trust of Australia (NSW)

The National Trust of Australia maintains a non-statutory register of historic heritage sites, buildings, landscapes, places and objects. Listing by the National Trust of Australia (NSW) constitutes an authoritative statement regarding a site's heritage significance, and while it does not impose any legal constraints upon future use or development of a site or place, a National Trust listing is a strong indication of the community's recognition of that site or place's heritage significance and the need for its conservation.

No elements on study area are included on the National Trust Heritage Register (NSW). The Register does include the nearby Cumberland Hospital (SHR), the remnants of the Female Factory and Asylum in particular (ie Wards 1, 2, 4 and 5 etc) (SHR) and the former Roman Catholic Orphan School Precinct (SHR).

National Trust Heritage Items in the vicinity of the Western Sydney Stadium (WSS):

- Parramatta Park formerly Governor's Domain Landscape Conservation Area
- Cottages, 12-14 O'Connell Street, Parramatta
- Roseneath, 34 O'Connell Street, Parramatta
- Old Government House, Parramatta Park
- Boer War Memorial, Parramatta Park
- Former Governor's Bath House, Parramatta Park
- Remnants of Governor Brisbane's Observatory, Parramatta Park
- Former Dairy Cottage, Parramatta Park
- House adjoining former Dairy, Parramatta Park
- St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, cnr Victoria Road and Marsden Street, Parramatta
- St Patrick's Roman Catholic Presbytery / Murphy House, Marist Place, Parramatta
- Marsden Rehabilitation Centre, formerly Kings School Group, Marsden Street, Parramatta, including Central Block, Headmaster's Residence, Dining Hall etc., Armoury, Classrooms, Dormitories
- Parramatta and Lane Cove Rivers Landscape Conservation Area, including the lower reaches of Darling Mills Creek and Toongabbie Creek.

2.6.3 Archaeological Guidelines

There are a range of archaeological guidelines which inform the management of the place:

Archaeological Assessment Guidelines, NSW Heritage Office, Department of Urban Affairs & Planning, 1996.

Assessing Significance for Archaeological Sites and 'Relics', Heritage Branch, Department of Planning, 2009.

NSW Heritage Manual, NSW Heritage Office, Department of Urban Affairs & Planning, 1996.
Historical Archaeological Investigations: A Code of Practice, NSW Department of Planning, 2006.

Historical Archaeological Sites, Investigation and Conservation Guidelines, Department of Planning and NSW Heritage Council, 1993.

Excavation Director's Assessment Criteria, NSW Heritage Office.

ICHAM Charter, The ICOMOS Charter for the Protection and Management of Archaeological Heritage, ICOMOS International, 1990.

Practice Note – The Burra Charter and Archaeological Practice, Australia ICOMOS 2013.

Practice Note – Understanding and assessing cultural significance, Australia ICOMOS 2013.

Recommendation on International Principles Applicable to Archaeological Excavations, UNESCO, 1956.

Heritage Interpretation Policy and Guidelines, Heritage Information Series, NSW Heritage Office, August 2005.

Photographic Recording of Heritage Items, Heritage Information Series, NSW Heritage Office, 2006.

2.6.4 Parramatta Historical Archaeological Landscape Management Strategy (PHALMS, 2000)

The Parramatta Historical Archaeological Landscape Management Study (PHALMS) is an historical archaeological landscape management tool used to identify places with historical archaeological potential throughout the Parramatta CBD and CBD fringe. PHALMS includes a list of Archaeological Management Units (AMUs), identifies the archaeological potential of each unit and recommends how that potential should be managed.

This study is superseded by the research undertaken by Casey & Lowe 2014 Baseline Archaeology Assessment for Parramatta North and by the Archaeological Assessment for the Western Sydney Stadium (Casey & Lowe 2017).

3.0 The Site

3.1 The Study Area

The study area is the current Pirtek Stadium site with an addition of the Parramatta War Memorial Swimming Pool site. This is the boundary approved in the Stage 1 EIS. In addition, as part of the Stage 2 project, there are civil works which extend outside of the EIS boundary, notably the southern Parramatta Park Trust carpark which has an area proposed to be reduced to assist with the overland flow and layout issues. This area will remain part of Parramatta Park.

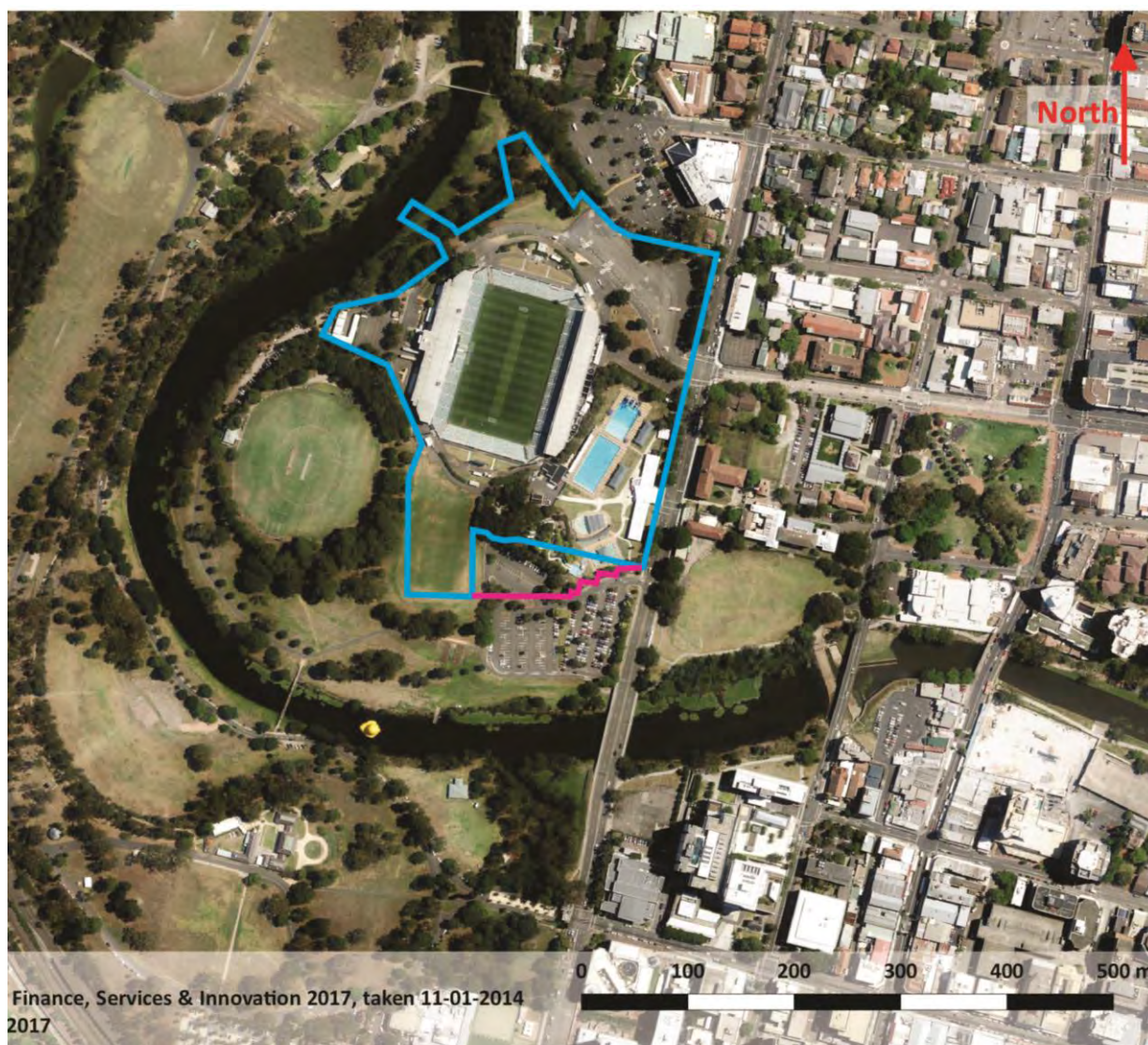


Figure 3.1: The EIS boundary with the section of the southern carpark which is part of Stage 2 cut and fill, and the extent of works area (pink edge).

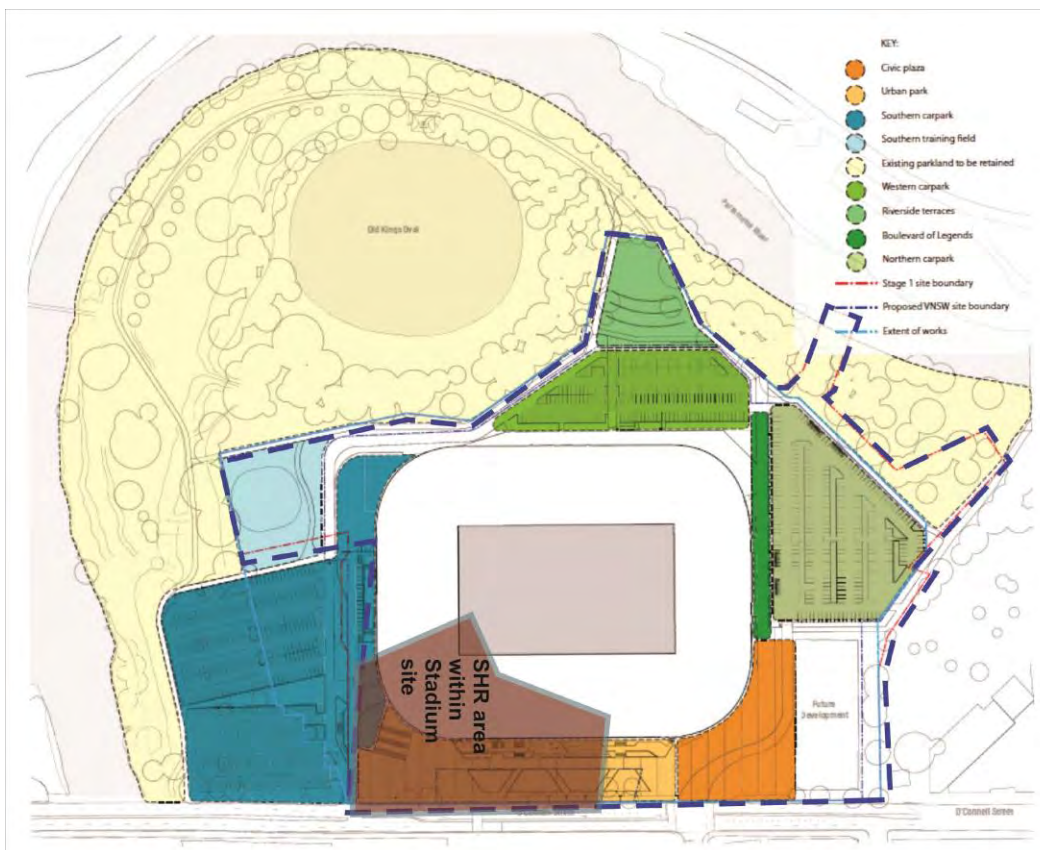


Figure 3.2: Proposed precincts. The area of former swimming pool is within the curtilage of the SHR for Parramatta Park. The dashed blue line is the SHR boundary. North is to the right.

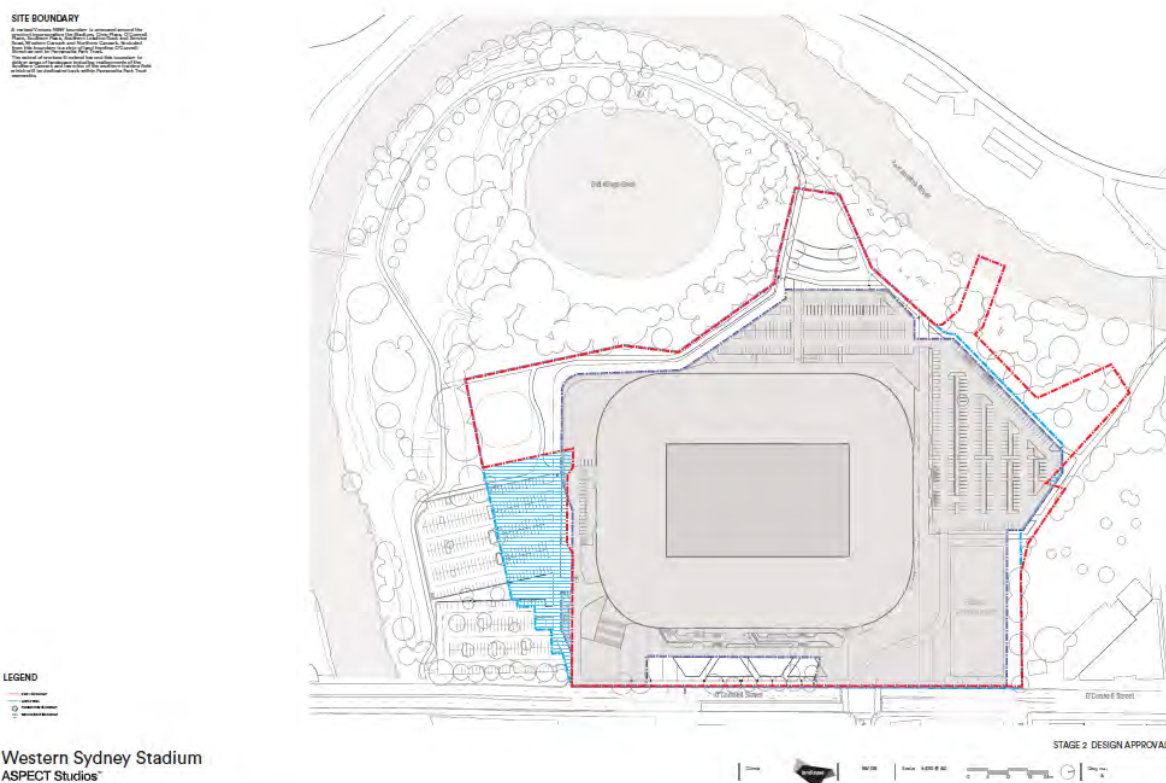


Figure 3.3: Site boundary plan showing the EIS boundary, the blue area indicates the works in the southern carpark. Aspect 23/2/2017

3.2 Views around the Wester Sydney Stadium

Series of views running clockwise from the northeastern area of the site.



Figure 3.4: View over the Pirtek Stadium from the north.



Figure 3.5: View across the northwestern part of the buffer zone towards the Noller Bridge.



Figure 3.6: View to the along the river bank. This area is within the buffer zone.



Figure 3.7: Looking along with river bank with the high river terrace covered with trees to the north.



Figure 3.8: Southern edge of the Kings Oval within the buffer zone with the bike path on the right. There is a low river terrace.



Figure 3.9: View to east along the buffer zone showing the bike path in the foreground, and the gentle rise of the river terrace to the left.



Figure 3.10: The Meriton tower in Church Street dominates the buffer zone views to Parramatta CBD and the WSS.



Figure 3.11: View to east within the buffer zone to the Parramatta CBD with the Parramatta Justice Precinct off O'Connell Street.



Figure 3.12: The buffer zone within the area of the Government Farm site. Note the river terraces and the interpretation of the entrance into the Farm from Pitt Street bridge.



Figure 3.13: Southern carpark owned by Parramatta Park Trust which is within the SHR listing but outside the buffer zone

4.0 Historical Context

4.1 Natural Landscape⁶

Parramatta's river terraces were covered by woodlands dominated by eucalypts, in particular grey box (*Eucalyptus moluccana*) and forest red gum (*Eucalyptus tereticormis*), with an open grassy understorey. Mangroves (*Avicennia marina*) may have colonised the river margins up to the tidal limit, approximately below Charles Street. The common reed (*Phragmites australis*), paperbarks (*Melaleuca linariifolia*) and rough-barked native apple (*Angophora floribunda*) are predicted to have occupied wetter and drier areas on the lower river terraces respectively.⁷ Stands of these trees can be seen in many early colonial-period images, often represented as encircling the settlement and illustrating the extent of clearing which had been undertaken.

4.2 Aboriginal Occupation

Before British colonists arrived in the area, the traditional Aboriginal inhabitants lived throughout the area. This report does not cover the Aboriginal history and prior land use of the study area. An Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment was prepared for the EIS which accompanied the Concept Design and Stage 1 SSD application, and a new Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment has been prepared by Comber Consultants for the project and S96 application.⁸

4.3 Parramatta Beginnings (1788-1789)

The Western Sydney Stadium site is within the early colonial landscape of Rose Hill and Parramatta. The settlement at Parramatta was the third British settlement in Australia after Sydney Cove and Norfolk Island. It began with the transformation of the landscape from an entirely Aboriginal place to a military redoubt and agricultural settlement, and then a township. Up to at least the 1830s, Parramatta continued to be a place where the local Aboriginal population and the newly arrived British settlers interacted.

Initial British settlement on Rose Hill was established in November 1788 by Governor Phillip who had sent out exploring parties to survey Sydney Harbour and the river at the head of the harbour shortly after landing at Sydney Cove. The area of Parramatta, at the head of the Parramatta River which feeds into Sydney Harbour, was discovered about three months after settlement. On Sunday 2 November 1788 Governor Phillip and others, including marines, established a military redoubt on Rose Hill.⁹ The detachment of marines was to include a captain, two officers and 25 non-commissioned officers as well as 40 or 50 convicts.¹⁰ The marines were to protect the new settlement from attacks by Aboriginal people. A redoubt is a small ditched fortification, typically enclosed with earthen embankments on four sides – a ditch is dug and the spoil is thrown up to form a raised defensive mound.

Convicts were sent to Rose Hill to commence farming as this land was considered to be more fertile than the land near Sydney where Farm Cove was found to be rocky, with shallow, sandy soils and a

⁶ Amendment to the EIS boundary are not shown on the figures in this section as they were taken from the S96 for earthworks. The significance of this change is discussed below.

⁷ Macphail & Casey 2008:47.

⁸ AECOM 2016b:68-69.

⁹ Tench reports it as 3 November. Tench, W. 1979, *Sydney's First Four Years*, originally published as *A complete account of the settlement at Port Jackson*, facsimile edition first published 1961, Library of Australian History and the Royal Australian Historical Society, Sydney, p. 136.

¹⁰ Gov. Phillip to Lord Sydney 30 October 1788, *Historical Records of New South Wales* (HRNSW), vol 1(2):209; Major Ross to Henry Nepean 16 November, 1788, HRNSW 1(2):213.

poor place to grow crops. In contrast, the ground at Parramatta 'was of a stiff clayey nature, free from that rock which everywhere covered the surface at Sydney Cove, well clothed with timber, and unobstructed by underwood'.¹¹ Initially an agricultural settlement, Rose Hill soon expanded into a small town and grew in importance, becoming the centre of British settlement for some years, with Sydney Cove remaining as the port town, main home of the governor and a major brickmaking area.

By February 1789 Rose Hill was a small settlement where the convicts and military 'still lived under tents' and 'very little molestation was at this time given by the natives' but there was ill treatment of the original inhabitants by the new arrivals.¹² By 14 July 1789 the convicts' tents had been replaced by huts and the soldiers were living in barracks within the redoubt which also contained the provisions store. The Government Farm was built with a house for Edward Dodd, and barn and granaries, into which wheat and barley was to be placed (Figure 4.3). The convicts had huts with gardens which they worked for themselves.

By June 1791 relations with some Aboriginal people had developed but there were considerable ups and downs. Collins describes the deterioration of the relationship:

Since the establishment of that familiar intercourse which now subsisted between us and the natives, several of them had found it their interest to sell or exchange fish among the people at Parramatta; they being contented to receive a small quantity of either bread or salt meat in barter for mullet, bream, and other fish. To the officers who resided there this proved a great convenience, and they encouraged the natives to visit them as often as they could bring them fish. There were, however, among the convicts some who were so unthinking, or so depraved, as wantonly to destroy a canoe belonging to a fine young man, a native, who had left it at some little distance from the settlement, and as he hoped out of the way of observation, while he went with some fish to the huts. His rage at finding his canoe destroyed was inconceivable; and he threatened to take his own revenge, and in his own way, upon all white people. Three of the six people who had done him the injury, however, were so well described by some one who had seen them, that, being closely followed, they were taken and punished, as were the remainder in a few days after.

The instant effect of all this was that the natives discontinued to bring up fish; and Ballooderry, whose canoe had been destroyed, although he had been taught to believe that one of the six convicts had been hanged for the offence, meeting a few days afterwards with a poor wretch who had strayed from Parramatta as far as the Flats, he wounded him in two places with a spear. This act of Ballooderry's was followed by the governor's strictly forbidding him to appear again at any of the settlements; the other natives, his friends, being alarmed, Parramatta was seldom visited by any of them, and all commerce with them was destroyed. How much greater claim to the appellation of savages had the wretches who were the cause of this, than the native who was the sufferer?¹³

4.4 Early Agriculture and the Government Farm (1790s)

The agricultural settlement was established in November 1788 and by February 1789 land was being cleared and cultivated. The removal of the trees was more difficult than anticipated due to the spread of the roots and the absence of cattle or horses to provide additional effort to assist with removing the trees.¹⁴ James Smith was the original person placed in charge of the government farm at Parramatta but Edward Dodd replaced him by March 1789. Dodd was Governor Phillip's

¹¹ Collins, D. 1975 *An account of the English Colony in New South Wales*, Brian Fletcher (ed.), Royal Australian Historical Society and AH & AW Reed, Sydney, vol 1, p. 37, November 1788; Governor Phillip to Sydney *Historical Records of Australia* (HRA), Series 1, Vol. 1:143, 12 February, 1790.

¹² Collins 1975 (1):46, 14th February 1789.

¹³ Collins 1975 (1):.137–139, June 1791.

¹⁴ Collins 1975 (1):46, 14 February 1798.

personal servant who had managed the farming at Farm Cove and proved to be an extremely capable overseer of the convicts.¹⁵

There are various reports of the success of agriculture at Rose Hill. On 16 November, 1790, Captain Tench toured the locality with Rev. Richard Johnson, ‘the best farmer in the country’, and Dodd. The cleared land equalled 200 acres (81 hectares), with 55 acres (22.3 hectares) of wheat, barley, some oats and 30 acres (21.1 hectares) of maize, and the rest either cleared land or occupied by buildings and gardens. There were to be four pens or enclosures of 20 acres (8 hectares) each for cattle and two of these had already been built. There was a house in the centre of each enclosure to accommodate the person to take care of the cattle. The cleared land gave ‘to them a very park-like and beautiful appearance’.¹⁶

There were no ploughs available to turn the soil and each convict had to hoe 16 rods a day (approx. 400 sq yards or 334 sq m), although this size meant that it was ‘just scratched over’ and not well turned. The ground was left open for some months before the remains of the trees were burnt and the ashes dug in. Dodd did not think areas could be replanted after the first crop without ‘a large supply of cattle’ to provide manure to fertilise the soil.¹⁷

In the southern part of the Stadium site, within Parramatta Park, is the site of the Government Farm. The Government Farm was a neat group of buildings within cleared and tilled ground accessible by a bridge across the river, with the barn and granary(s). The earliest depiction of the site is a roughly sketched map, prepared by William Bradley, probably in May 1789, when he visited Rose Hill (Figure 4.1). Bradley’s sketch depicts four farm structures, one to the west of the bridge/entrance road and three to the east.

Another early sketch map of the site was drawn by Philip Gidley King when he visited Rose Hill in April 1790 (Figure 4.2). King also described the Government Farm at the same time:

On the Opposite Side of the Brook is a farm house, where a Servant of Governor Phillips lives, & who is charged with the Superintendance of the Convicts & the Cultivation of the ground, to which charge he is very equal, & is of the greatest use to the Governor, as he has no other free person whatever to overlook the least piece of work carrying on by the Convicts; near this Farm house is a very good Barn & Granary...¹⁸

King’s sketch shows five structures within the farm group, with one additional building on the east side of the bridge/entrance road. Two of these buildings are labelled - ‘Granary’ and ‘Barn’.

There are two 1791 watercolour painting depicting the Government Farm some months after King’s visit (Figure 4.3, Figure 4.4). The key one shows a direct view of the farm. By this time, the fenced-off area surrounding the farm buildings was a well-organised garden with pathways and rows of plants. There was a dirt entrance road locked by a gate opposite the bridge (line of Pitt Street), two cottages with chimneys and what appears to be three tree stumps. The rest of the structures to the rear appear to be farm buildings such as the granary and barn. It is possible one of these may have been the blacksmiths shop. The buildings appear to be a mix of timber, wattle and daub and possibility brick, notably the two fireplaces. An early brick kiln is indicated on the southern shore. The second watercolour focuses on the river and the crescent but also includes the northern foreshore with the southern farm buildings being located on the second terrace (Figure 4.4). A large-scale map from around 1791 shows the approximate location of the Government Farm buildings (Figure 4.5). It also shows the area to the north of the farm in cultivation.

¹⁵ Collins 1975 (1):52, 546 n.18, March 1789.

¹⁶ Tench 1979:193, November 16, 1790.

¹⁷ Tench 1979:194, November 16, 1790.

¹⁸ Journal of P G King, SLNSW SAFE / C 115 pp386-387 [a version of this text had been published in Hunter 1793:402-403].

The most reliable cartographic depiction of the Government Farm comes from a map of Parramatta typically dated to 1792 (Figure 4.6). This map is thought to have been based on actual measurements, and has proved relatively reliable on locating archaeological features around Parramatta. Nevertheless, limitations in the accuracy of the original survey must be recognised. Any overlay of this map onto contemporary plans will also have some uncertainty, perhaps as great as $\pm 15\text{m}$. It is noted that at the Parramatta Justice Precinct where this plan was used to identify buildings it was found to have an error of approximately 5m.¹⁹ The 1792 map shows four buildings within the Government Farm area, including two buildings corresponding to the granary and barn shown on King's 1790 sketch map (Figure 4.2). It also clearly shows that the bridge leading to the farm was in line with the centre of Pitt Street, which at the time extended into what is now Parramatta Park.

The slight differences between these contemporary depictions of the Government Farm may indicate that the farm buildings were being modified during the late 1780s and early 1790s. Alternatively, some differences may be due to the original depictions being inaccurate or incomplete.

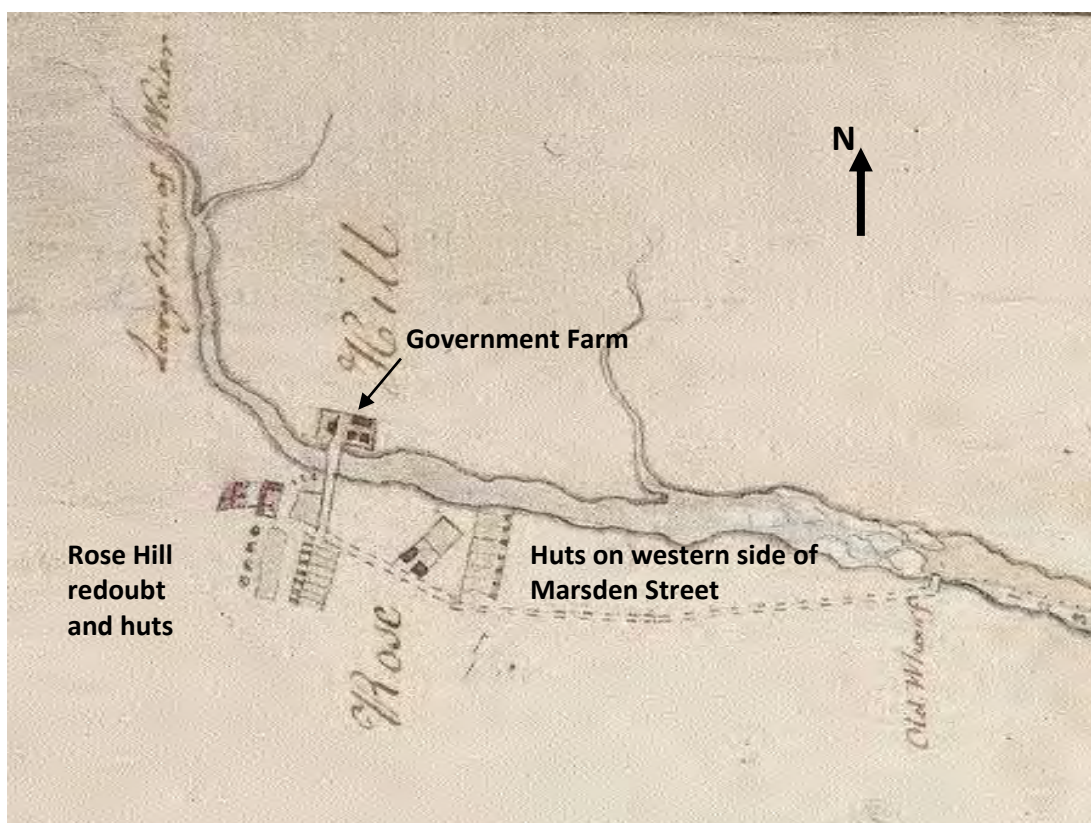


Figure 4.1: Sketch of Rose Hill by William Bradley, probably May 1789 when he visited Rose Hill. This is one of only two sketch plans to show the settlement of Rose Hill prior to the laying out of Parramatta's main streets in July 1790. SLNSW SAFE/MT4 140/1792/1, chart 4, digital order no. a127082.

¹⁹ Mary Casey pers comm.

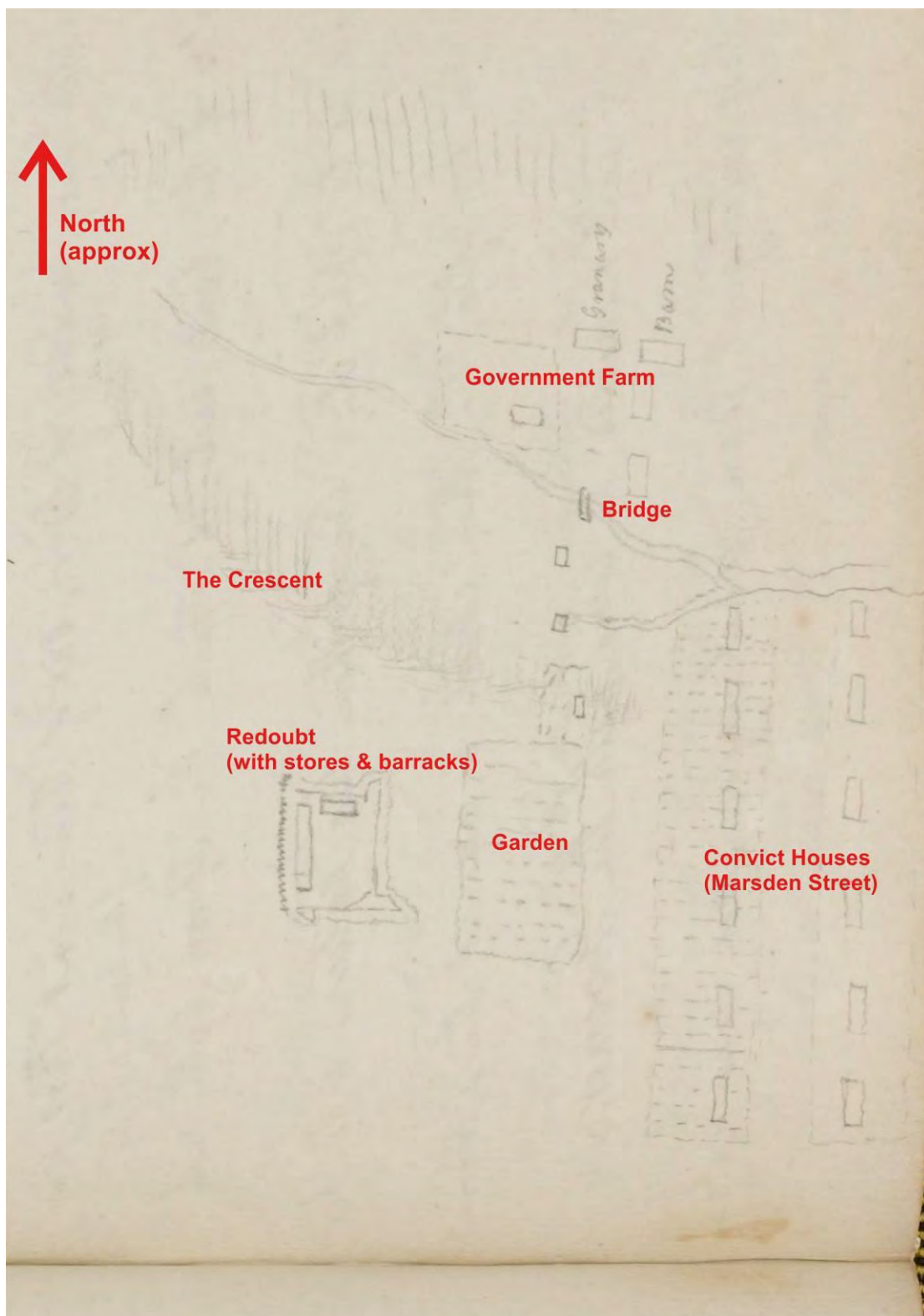


Figure 4.2: Annotated copy of an untitled sketch map of the Rose Hill settlement around April 1790, contained in the copy of 'Remarks & Journal kept on the Expedition to form a Colony' by Philip Gidley King, p 391. Note King's own labels 'Granary' and 'Barn', and the hatches used to indicate steeply sloping ground. SLNSW, SAFE/C115, digital order no. a1519256.



Figure 4.3: Government Farm with one or possibly two cottages, a barn with a man threshing in the doorway, perhaps two granaries and a few other structures, including a possible brick kiln the middle foreground. The area within the fence is completely cultivated and does not appear to be used for grazing, possibly because very few animals had been brought to the colony at this time. A view of Government Farm at Rose Hill N.S. Wales, 1791, Port Jackson Painter, Watling and Lambert Collection, Natural History Museum, British Museum.



Figure 4.4: The government Farm is shown on the northern bank (left) on the second of the river terraces. This painting is considered to be by the same artist as Figure 4.3. To the right is the crescent with buildings along the top line of the crescent. View at Rose Hill Port Jackson, artist unknown, DG SV1AQ/24, State Library NSW.

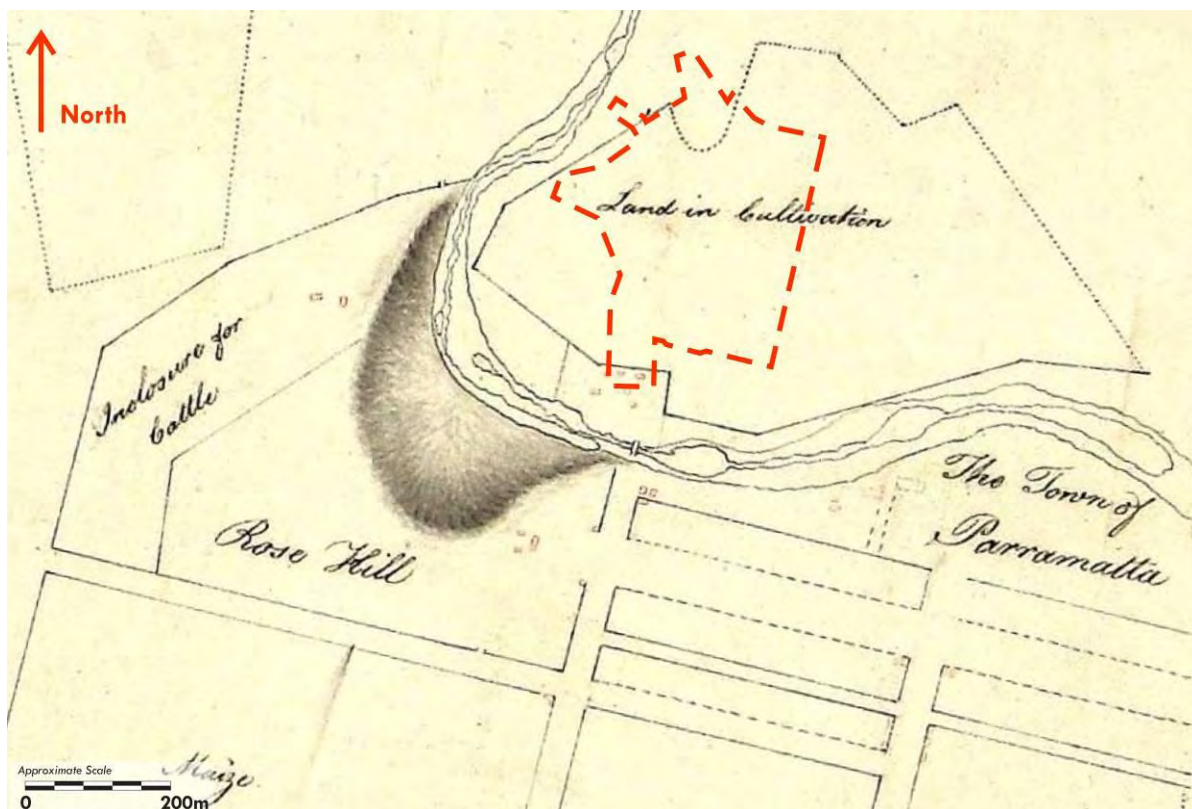


Figure 4.5: Detail of ‘Plan and Survey of Parramatta and the Settlements in its vicinity’, c.1791. The approximate location of the study area is outlined in red. Note the Government Farm with the ‘Land in Cultivation’. By 1791, areas of agriculture within the main town had been replaced by the newly laid out township. TNA (UK) CO 700/New South Wales3.

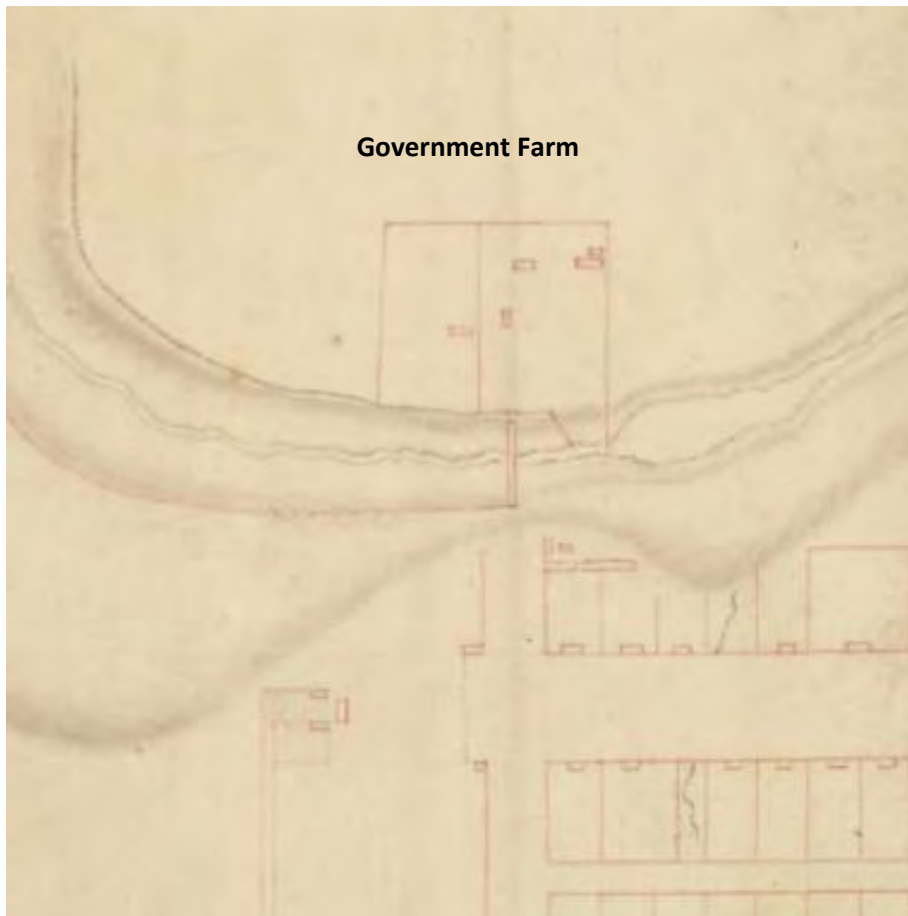


Figure 4.6: Detail of a 1792 plan of Parramatta showing the Government Farm with the bridge on the alignment of original and modern Pitt Street. The farm contained four structures on the eastern side and what was probably Dodd's residence on the western side of the fence. UK Archives, CO700 New South Wales 4.

4.5 Later uses of the Government Farm (1800-1810s)

Henry Dodd died on 28 January 1791. However, the Government Farm continued to be used for some time. Although the 1804 plan of Parramatta (Figure 4.7) does not show any structures or allotments in the vicinity of the Government Farm, there is good evidence that it was divided into two lots, and occupied by the Sir Joseph Banks' botanist, George Caley, and the trusted former convicts Thomas and Elizabeth Eccles.

On 1 January 1806 Governor King granted a lease of seven years to George Caley for 1 acre, 2 roods and 18 perches (0.65 Ha) on the north side of the Parramatta River. At the same time, he granted another lease of 14 years to Thomas Eccles for 1 acre, 2 roods and 25 perches (0.67 Ha).²⁰ By comparison, the measured area of the Government farm as shown on the 1792 map is approximately four acres (1.6 Ha).

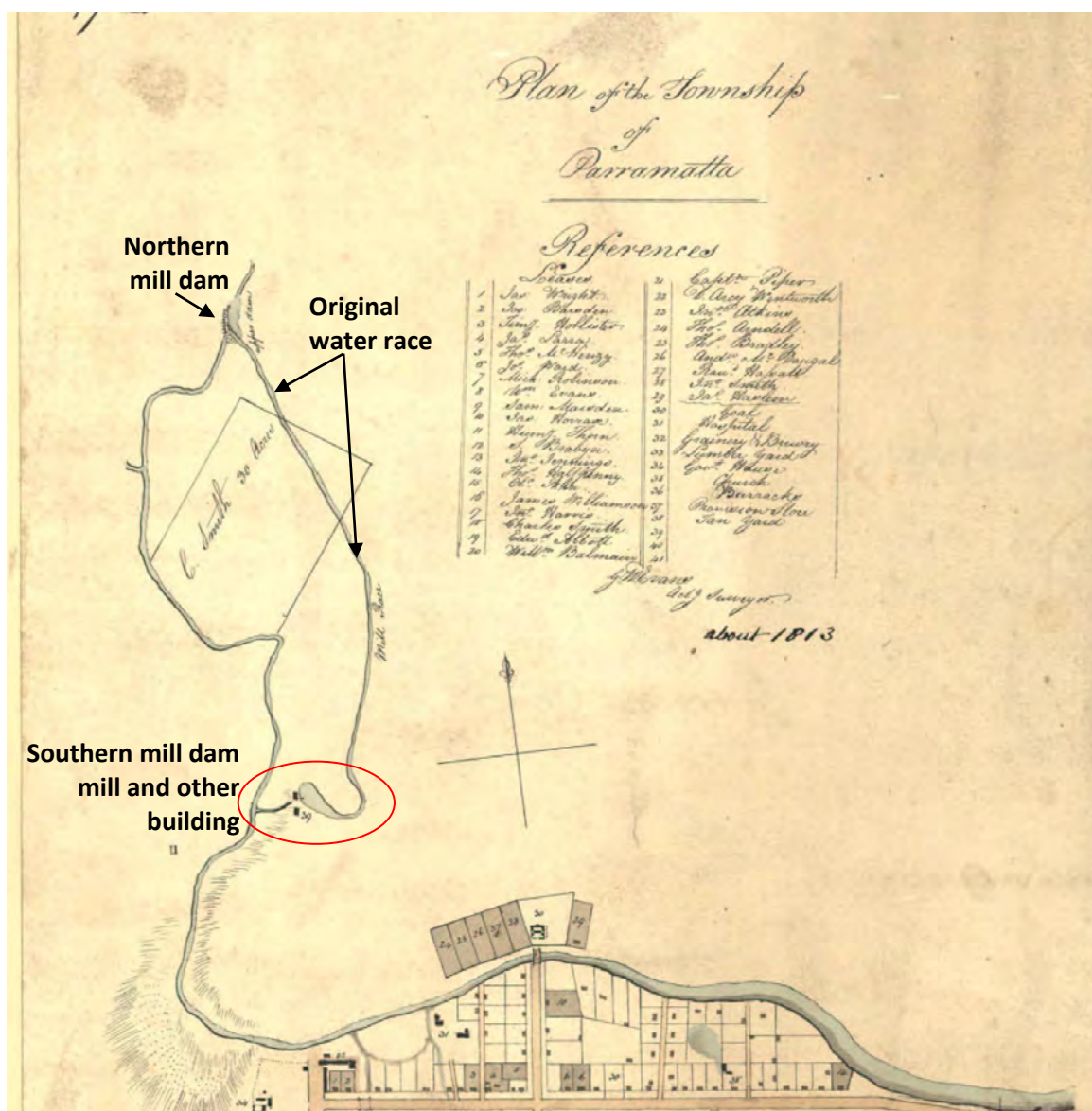


Figure 4.7: 1804 Map of Parramatta showing the 1799-1803 mill and race in relation to Charles Smith's Grant, and southern and northern dam with the mill race extending to the north into the Parramatta North precinct. The Government Farm is not shown on this plan. Meehan drawing of Evans' survey, UK National Archives CO700 NSW22.

²⁰ NSW LPI Land Grants Bk 3, Nos. 187(2) and 187(3).

The two leases were surveyed at the same time on 9 May 1806, and although the description made at the time is somewhat hard to follow, it is clear that the two lots were adjacent to each other (Figure 4.8).²¹ The fieldbook description also includes a measured line roughly 13.7 chains (276 m) north from the southwest corner of the granary to 'Eccles's Cor[ner]'.²² The southwest corner of the granary, as shown on the 1804 map, was near the former intersection of Pitt and George Streets (now within Parramatta Park). This measurement, although fairly rough and inaccurate, places the leases within the general area of the Government Farm as shown on the 1792 map (Figure 4.6). George Caley's own 1806 map of the Government Watermill also places his house in the general vicinity of the former Government Farm (Figure 4.9).

The 1806 leases both use the phrase 'the allotment of ground now in the occupation of', which indicates that both Eccles and Caley lived on their lots before 1806. George Caley was Sir Joseph Banks' personal collector of botanical specimens, and lived at Parramatta from around May 1800 on a site chosen by Philip Gidley King on behalf of Governor Hunter. There appears to have been a house already on the site but another new house was also built for Caley around September 1800.²³ Thomas and Elizabeth Eccles had lived in Parramatta since early 1801, after time on Norfolk Island. There, Philip Gidley King had recommended Eccles for a pardon based on his services as a gardener.²⁴ Both Caley and Thomas Eccles had close connections to Governor King, which may have influenced the location of their lots near Government House. Both Eccles' and Caley's leases were excluded from the later grant of 105 acres north of the Parramatta River made by Governor King to William Bligh in August 1806.²⁵

Caley left Parramatta in 1808, after Banks ended his employment. Thomas Eccles continued to live at Parramatta, presumably on his allotment, until his death in April 1814, aged in his 80s or 90s. After his death, Elizabeth Eccles (also known as Betty) moved to the Government Dairy, where she lived until her death in 1835, aged 105.²⁶

Some, including the historian James Jervis, have suggested that Caley's botanic garden and house were on the same site as the land which Governor Brisbane leased to the Agricultural Society for a Horticultural Garden in the 1820s and later used as the site of the Kings School.²⁷ However, it is clear from correspondence from the Agricultural Society in 1833, that they only occupied the site for roughly ten years before it was offered as the site for the new school.²⁸ Therefore, based on Meheen's fieldbook evidence and Caley's plan, his house and garden were within the locality of the former Government Farm.

²¹ Surveyor-General, Field Books, No 32, J Meehan, 1804, SRNSW SZ 865, p 15.

²² The actual text of the fieldbook reads, "from SW Cor of Granary N17½W 4 [chains] N8¾E 6 [chains] N15¼E 370 [links] Eccles's Cor".

²³ Else-Mitchell 1967; McClymont 2014.

²⁴ Cameron 2016; Dunn n.d.; 'Eccles, Thomas (1737–1814)', People Australia, <http://peopleaustralia.anu.edu.au/biography/eccles-thomas-24901/text33461>.

²⁵ NSW LPI Land Grants Bk 3, No. 217.

²⁶ Else-Mitchell 1967; Dunn n.d.

²⁷ McClymont 2014.

²⁸ Peddle Thorp Architects 1994:34.

15
George Caley May 9th 1006

from NW Cor. of present Garden
N 15 E. 564 - E 9³/₄ 254 - 16 more to the
line of fence - in line of a Tree & 9th
at 92 end of house 46⁴ -
from first Cor. E 30th 320 - at
1 is 20th -

from 3 in first line -
N 17³/₄ W 90 - N 15 E. 490 - E 610 S 364
The Bottom not Leased from 90 cut off
by a line ^{or 815} 370 - contains 1:2:10
on the East side is 87th (from 364) 260
and the present paling -

Thos. Eccles
at NW Cor. E 13¹/₂ W 207 - S 1³/₄ E 574 -
N 36¹/₂ W 1. Cor. 25th - N 240 is 25th all the way
to the ~~line~~
Cor. the West side N. 3 - E. 60 and N 763
to first corner - contains 1:2:25 -

from NW Cor. of Granary N 17³/₄ W
4 - N 0³/₄ E. 6 - N 15³/₄ E 370 Eccles
Cor. 15th - (at 145 Caley's Cor. 10th
the NW Cor. of Stable, 10th) N 20th W 52
Caley's N E. Cor. at end of 364

Figure 4.8: The 1806 fieldbook descriptions of George Caley's and Thomas Eccles' leases, which show that they were adjacent to each other. All measurements are in either links or chains. Surveyor-General, Field Books, No 32, J Meehan, 1804, SRNSW SZ 865, p 15 (copy from ancestry.com).

4.6 Government Watermill and Race (1799-c.1820)

In 1799 Governor John Hunter made preparations for the construction of a watermill in Parramatta. It was one in a number of attempts to provide the colony with an efficient and reliable way to mill large quantities of grain using equipment brought out with him in 1795.²⁹ Hunter's plan was to utilise tidal changes in the river at Parramatta and he announced in September 1800 the construction of 'a large water-mill'. By this time part of the water works were 'considerably advanced and some part of the machinery prepared'.³⁰

Andrew MacDougall, John Bowman and John Smith arrived in the colony in May 1798 with books and plans supplied by the British Government for the construction of mills. From December 1799, ten carpenters, wheelwrights, barrow makers and labourers were employed on the project. The mill on the eastern bank of the Parramatta River was 'a little upstream of Governor's House on the Crescent' where flat stones formed a 'natural low weir and a causeway' at a site thought in the 1990s to be near the present-day Norma Parker Centre.³¹

Governor King succeeded Hunter in September 1800 and assumed control of the colony and water mill construction. Other than the mill, the project required the construction of mill races and dams to direct and control the water supply. The mill race began at a point just north of the junction between Toongabbie Creek and the Parramatta River, ran due southeast through ex-convict Charles Smith's 30-acre farm, and followed a line to the site of the watermill. The location of the mill race, dams and mill in relation to the town are shown on Acting Surveyor G. W. Evans' 'Plan of the Township of Parramatta', based on an 1804 survey (Figure 4.7).³²

Initially Rev. Samuel Marsden, the Superintendent of Public Works, supervised the construction of the mill but in 1803 the work was entrusted to convict Nathaniel Lucas, a skilled carpenter recently arrived from Norfolk Island with Alexander Dollis, a master boat builder and former superintendent on the island. Nathaniel Lucas had worked with Lieutenant Governor King on Norfolk Island and Governor King considered him to be a competent mill builder.³³ Upon finding some of the work of poor standard it was dismantled and rebuilt.³⁴ Allegedly motivated by the advantages of its location, about 1803 Samuel Marsden purchased Smith's 30-acre farm that was 'out of cultivation' and through which the mill races ran. His ownership was formalised by a grant from Lachlan Macquarie in 1812, increasing its area to 36 acres and extending it to the riverbank at its northwest corner.³⁵

In January 1804, the mill project was nearing completion and had the potential to contribute to the colonial economy as a labour saving device and improving the quality of milled flour. The three-storey, roughly-built stone mill measured nine yards by eight yards (8.2m x 7.3m), and had an overshot wheel 18 feet (5.5 m) in diameter and 18 inches (0.46m) in width. A spacious granary formed part of the design for the upper floor.³⁶

Mill operations commenced, but major flaws soon became apparent in the planning and construction of the dams, races and mill. Sandy soil made many of the structures and races unstable, and unreliable water supplies led to insufficient water for operation. Excess water

²⁹ Tatrai 1994:24-25.

³⁰ *HRNSW* Vol 4 p 154 cited in Tatrai 1994:28.

³¹ Tatrai 1994:29, 31.

³² 'Plan of the Township of Parramatta', GW Evans, Acting Surveyor, survey dated to 1804 [although annotated 'about 1813'], ML SLNSW Z/M2 811.1301/1813/1.

³³ Nathaniel Lucas built one of the three windmills within the Sydney Domain.

³⁴ Tatrai 1994:32-33; *Sydney Gazette* 23 Oct 1803:2.

³⁵ Grants register Series 7 p51, LPI; Caley cited in Tatrai 1994:84.

³⁶ Tatrai 1994:32-33; Caley cited in Tatrai 1994:83; *Sydney Gazette* 15 Jan 1804.

supplies proved equally difficult to manage. Alexander Dollis, who had overseen much of the mill construction, left the colony in March 1804 and Lucas went on to establish his own mill in Sydney, leaving the project without skilled labour to attend to the problems.³⁷ Heavy rain in the following month caused serious damage to the dams and races, and structural repairs involved the installation of piling and casing to reinforce the earthen dam walls. The lining of the largest dam neared completion in August 1804. Governor King relayed to his superiors his disappointment considering the great labour and expense invested in the mill and dam ‘erected on the same spot designed by Governor Hunter as the only situation likely to be supplied with water’.³⁸

Between 1803 and 1806 George Caley wrote an account of the construction of the Government watermill.³⁹ Caley lived on a lease to the south of the new mill and closely observed its progress. Scathing criticisms were directed at Rev. Marsden, whom he suspected of mismanagement and accused of general ignorance about the technical requirements of the project. In particular Caley questioned Marsden’s motives behind the acquisition of Smith’s Farm and its proximity to the location of a better site for a mill. Marsden later built his own watermill near the Government’s northern mill dam opposite the junction of Toongabbie Creek.⁴⁰

Caley outlined the flaws inherent in the Government watermill, in particular:

- The close proximity of the mill to the river, risking flood damage.
- Use of earth mortar in masonry walling in the dam walls, allowing water to seep through.
- No provision for an overflow during flooding.
- Shortage of labourers and skilled labour.
- The mill races had loose sides and washed away.
- The mill races were too shallow in places and later races were dug to a greater depth through bedrock.
- The water wheel worked intermittently due to irregular water flow.⁴¹

Caley’s account provides additional information integral to an understanding of his diagram, and discusses later repairs and alterations associated with the mill works. A key to the features associated with the mill and millrace are listed in Table 4.1 below.⁴² Features A, B, C, D, P and Q are located within the general locality of the Western Sydney Stadium study area and the other features are within Parramatta North Urban Transformation precinct.

Despite King’s disappointment, the mill resumed operation, albeit dependent on irregular water supplies and prone to damage in inclement weather.⁴³ Millwrights worked from a shed to the south of the mill. In January 1805, the dam to the north at ‘HI’ was altered and a new mill race dug at a new location. Work was completed just prior to a flood breaching the dam wall. Strategies attempting to save the structure included a ditch dug at ‘D’ to provide an overflow, and earth piled on the top of the dam. The mill operated through the remainder of February and March and, due to the fast pace of the waterwheel, as much water was lost as was useful in the mill’s operation. New breaches in the dam near the mill led to the construction of a stone dam wall.⁴⁴

³⁷ Caley cited in Tatrai 1994:85; Tatrai 1994:35.

³⁸ King to Hobart 14 Aug 1804, *Historical Records of Australia*, Series 1 Vol 5, 12, 45-46, 171.

³⁹ Tatrai, 1994:35; Caley’s account reproduced in Tatrai 1994:82-91.

⁴⁰ Caley cited in Tatrai 1994:83.

⁴¹ Tatrai 1994:36; Caley in Tatrai 1994:84-88.

⁴² Caley in Tatrai 1994: 81.

⁴³ King to Hobart, 14 Aug 1804, *HRA Ser 1 Vol 5*, 1915, 27, 45-46, 171; King to Camden *HRA Ser 1 Vol 5*, 1915, 653.

⁴⁴ Caley in Tatrai 1994:86-88.

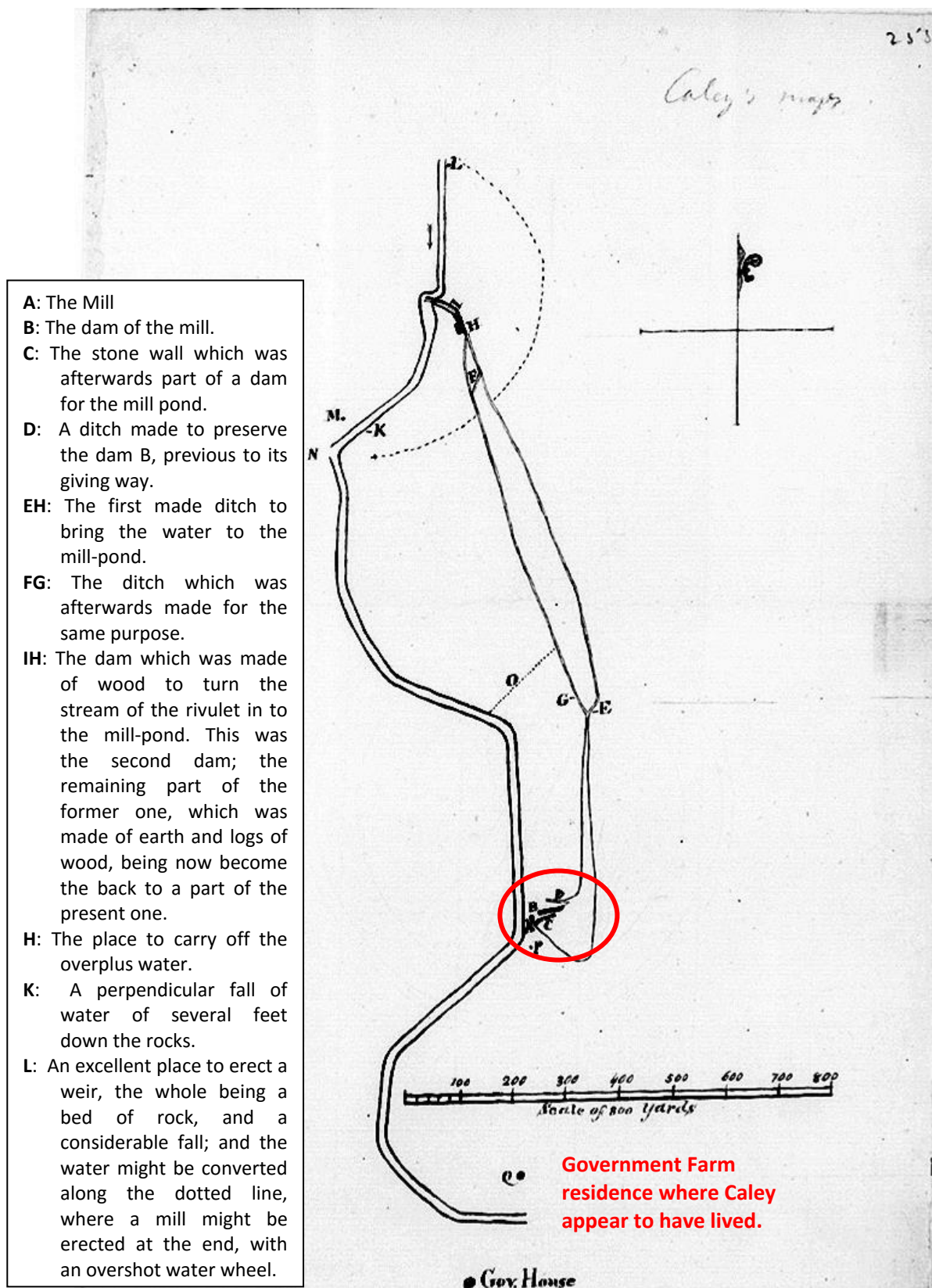


Figure 4.9: Caley's sketch plan of the location of the Government Watermill, Parramatta, c.1806. The area of the watermill is circled (Series 18.089). Series 18: Correspondence, being mainly letters received by Banks from George Caley, 1795-1809, 1814, CY3680-726, ML, SLNSW. See Table 2.1 for full key.

Table 4.1: Key to Caley's schematic plan of the Government watermill at Parramatta, c.1806 (Tatrai 1994, 81).

| | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|---|
| <i>A</i> | <i>The mill</i> | <i>H</i> | <i>The place to carry off the over-plus water</i> |
| <i>B</i> | <i>The Dam of the Mil-pond, and showing the breach</i> | <i>K</i> | <i>A perpendicular fall of water of several feet down the rocks</i> |
| <i>C</i> | <i>The stone wall which was afterwards in building as a dam for the mill-pond</i> | <i>L</i> | <i>An excellent place to erect a weir, the while being a bed of rock, and a considerable fall, and the water might be erected at the end, with an over-shot water wheel</i> |
| <i>D</i> | <i>A ditch made to preserve the dam B, previous to its giving way</i> | <i>M</i> | <i>A farm laying waste, or uncultivated</i> |
| <i>EH</i> | <i>The first made ditch to bring water to the mill-pond</i> | <i>N</i> | <i>The conflux of another rivulet</i> |
| <i>FG</i> | <i>The ditch was afterwards made for the same purpose</i> | <i>DK</i> | <i>The Rev. Marsden's land</i> |
| <i>GH</i> | <i>When this ditch was cut deeper, it was carried more direct at the other end</i> | <i>P</i> | <i>The shed in which the mill-wrights worked</i> |
| <i>IH</i> | <i>The dam which was made of wood to turn the stream of the rivulet in to the mill-pond. This was the second dam; the remaining part of the former one, which was made of earth and logs of wood, being now become the back to a part of the present one</i> | <i>Q</i> | <i>My [Caley's] habitation</i> |

The construction of the stonework kept a number of hands in employment until mid-April 1806 at which time the pressure of the water forced much of it to give way, and not for the first time. The workmen were removed from the job, leaving an area to complete measuring 50 yards long, 2¾ yards wide and 6 yards high at its greatest depth (46 x 2.5 x 5.5m). The wall consisted of two skins of masonry about a foot apart (300mm), tied together at intervals by stonework. Mortar was used in places, however, it was generally set with clay. The face of the dam wall was laid with squared stones but the inner skin was rubble and clay. A trough in the wall allowed for water to be drained from the pond and there was an area left for a sluice.⁴⁵

Marsden compounded problems by felling trees to block the thoroughfare through Smith's Farm, hindering access to repair of the dam and races to the north. Further potential challenges to the mill's ongoing operation followed in 1806 when, contrary to orders, King granted the incoming governor William Bligh 105 acres to the south of the mill. Four acres was reserved 'for the use of the mill race and pond, and to the river, and also a road fifty feet wide to communicate with the mill'. Another exception to exclusive occupation included the preservation of the original terms of existing leases to Caley and Thomas Eccles.⁴⁶ During his term Bligh did not improve the already cleared land or use the pasture but maintained his right to its ownership.⁴⁷ The grant was cancelled in 1819 but a legal battle over the title continued until 1841 when Bligh's executors formally surrendered their claim.

The culmination of two and a half years of work was an unfinished watermill that was poorly designed and positioned, and which had fundamental weaknesses. Even if successful it was only

⁴⁵ Caley in Tatrai 1994:88-89.

⁴⁶ Tatrai 1994:52.

⁴⁷ Macquarie to Bathurst, 7 Oct 1814, *HRA*, Series 1, Vol 8, 1916, 339.

built to work one pair of millstones, therefore lacking the output necessary for increasing demands.⁴⁸

Despite the watermill's problems it is thought to have operated at times and by 1814 wheelwright George Howell of Parramatta is thought to have been operating it.⁴⁹ Olga Tatrai suggests in *Wind and Watermills of Old Parramatta* that George Howell operated the government mill, in conjunction with miller John Walker. The skilled wheelwright had worked in Parramatta as overseer, was familiar with the locality and had the necessary skills to oversee a mill. Through association, the government mill had become known as "Howell's Mill". Howell was less competent with financial matters and in December 1820 a debt to Simeon Lord resulted in the auction of the interests, rights and claims to the Parramatta mill and other property.⁵⁰ Some months earlier Lord was partly remunerated by the government to the amount of £100 for the removal of Howell's mill, the equipment of which could be utilised in his own mills in dressing cloth for the government.⁵¹ The sale and removal of the equipment marked the end for the government watermill that successive colonial governors had envisaged would be an asset to Parramatta and the colony.

The location of the watermill is known from a number of historical maps and other sources. The general location of the mill and mill race are known from Evan's 1804 map of Parramatta, and Caley's 1806 sketch map of the mill (Figure 4.7, Figure 4.9). The mill is also one of the features labelled on an undated (c.1803) survey thought to be by the surveyor Charles Grimes (Figure 4.10). It also is shown on another map of Parramatta made in 1814.⁵² All these maps show the Government Mill in roughly the same location, roughly the northwest corner of the Study Area. The difficulty with all these early maps is that they each show the mill and dam in a slightly different location, leading to the conclusion that the precise location which they show is inaccurate. However, the southern mill dam survived as a landscape feature up to the 1960s. As a result, the position of the mill and dam can be determined using later, more accurate maps.⁵³ Ebsworth's 1887 map of Parramatta Park shows that the dam & mill race were in the northwest of the study area, just south of a carriage drive which follows the present road to the Parramatta River, south of the Norma Parker Centre. This same formation survived until at least 1961 (Figure 4.12).

⁴⁸ Caley in Tatrai 1994:90.

⁴⁹ Meehan, Surveyor's Field Book 73, 2/4746, SRNSW cited by H. Weatherburn in Higginbotham, 1991, np [35].

⁵⁰ Tatrai 1994: 53-54; *Sydney Gazette* 28 Dec 1820, 2.

⁵¹ *Sydney Gazette* 29 Jul 1820, 2.

⁵² 'Plan of the Township of Parramatta in New South Wales 1814', signed L. M[acquarie], 1 Oct 1814, SLNSW M2 811.1301/1814/1.

⁵³ This approach was also taken in the 2014 Baseline Archaeological Assessment. See Casey & Lowe 2014:223-224.

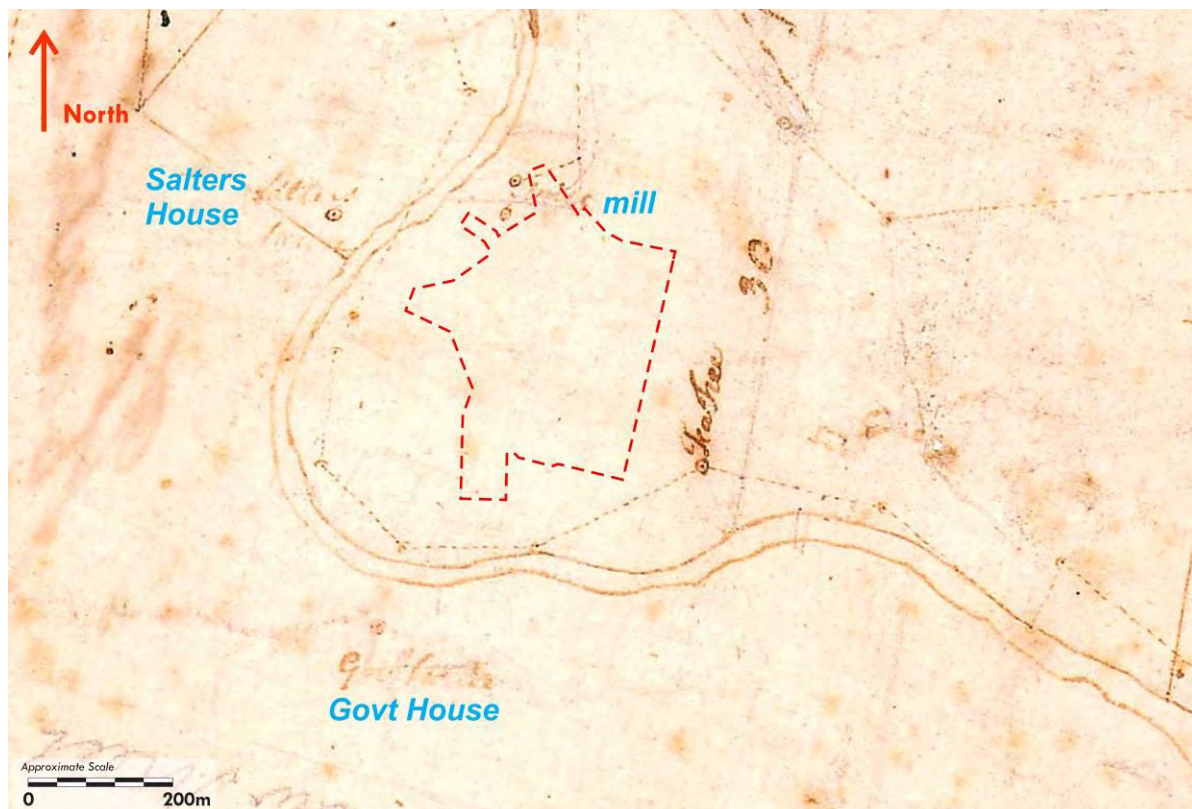


Figure 4.10: Detail of 'Survey showing Smith's land at Parramatta...', Surveyor C. Grimes, n.d. (c.1803). The faint pencil labels have been transcribed in blue. Approximate location of study area outlined in red. SRNSW P.1213, SR Item SZ407.

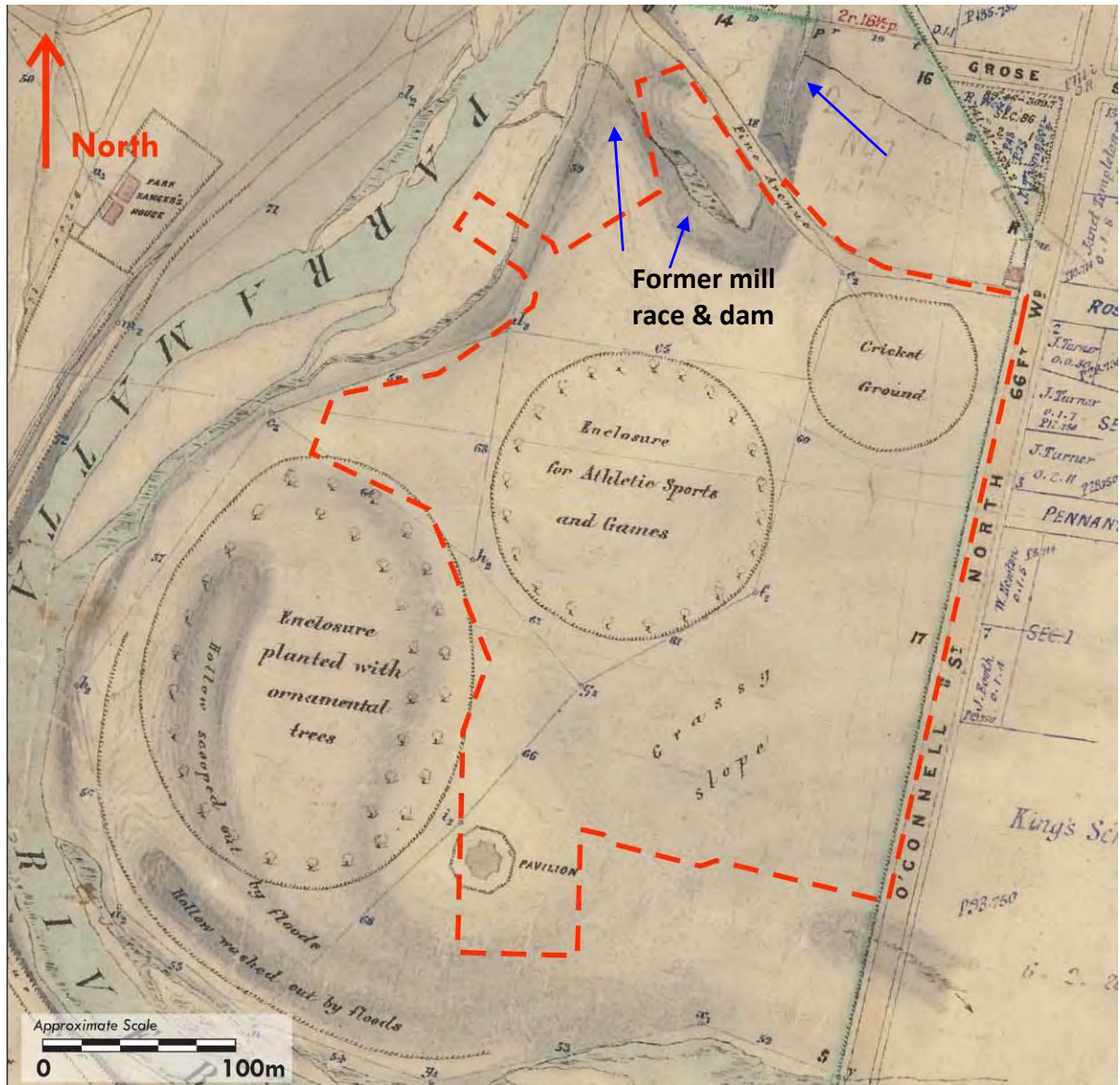


Figure 4.11: Detail of Ebsworth's 1887 survey showing a watercourse running from the site of the Female Reformatory south to a point south of Pine Avenue and then northwest towards the river. The watercourse and a pond along its course correspond with the location of the former mill race and dam of the Government watermill. Ms 80-Sy, LPI.

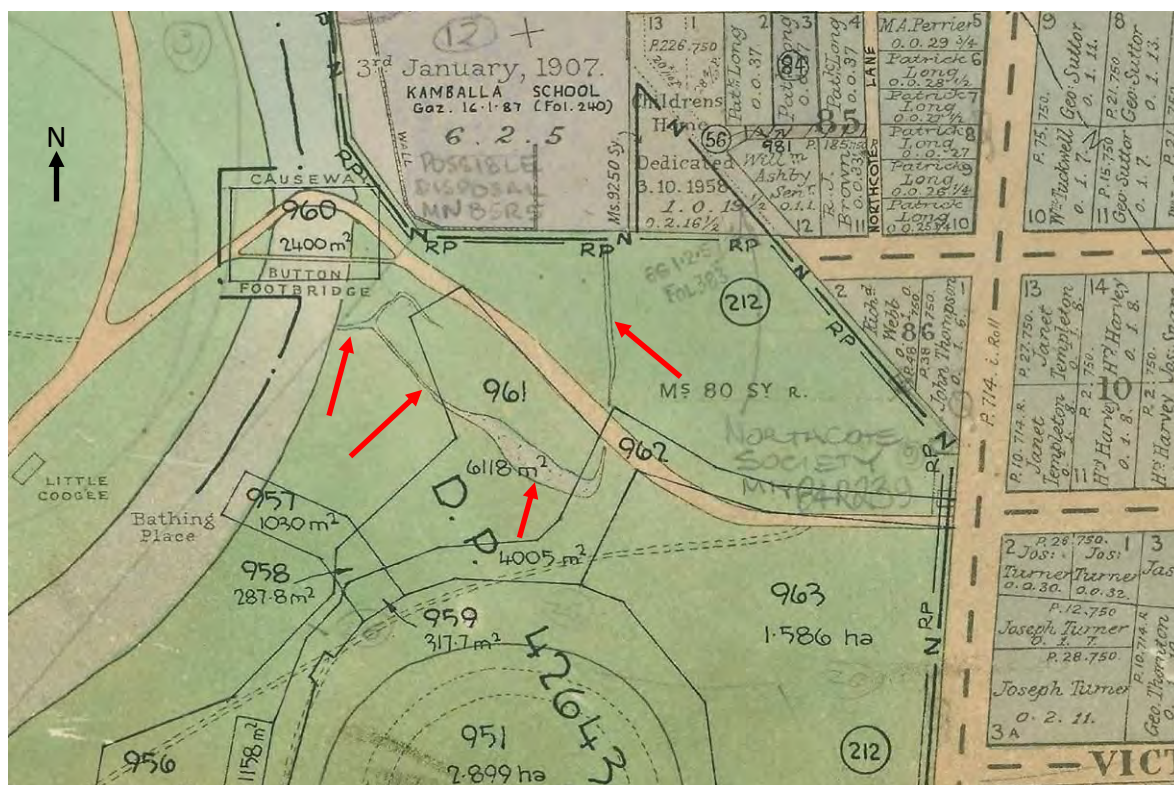


Figure 4.12: Part of a town map of Parramatta showing the watercourse running south and then west toward the Parramatta River in 1961. This site corresponds to that of the c1803 Government Watermill. The red arrows indicate the location of the mill races and the mill dam, all of which were still surviving in 1961. This also has some of the modern subdivision boundaries which are shown on many of the maps within the study area. Town of Parramatta, 24 May 1961, LPI.

4.7 Sports & Leisure - Later Park Uses

4.7.1 Parramatta Racecourse, Cricket and Sports Grounds

The use of parts of the former Governor's Domain at Parramatta for sporting activities began in 1825 with the Cumberland Turf Club which held races on a stretch of land south of the river, but the club was disbanded in the 1830s. Racing remained popular and on Easter Monday in 1847 a horse race was held again south of the river.

From 1846 Governor Sir Charles FitzRoy restricted the public's 'customary access' to the Government Domain during his administration.⁵⁴ Contrary to criticisms that he appropriated the Domain for his own use, in 1847 he approved an application for the Cumberland Turf Club (named Parramatta Jockey Club from November 1879) to build a racecourse in part of the Domain called Fox's Paddock near the 'Mud Lodge'. The first event was planned for 15 June (later postponed) and tenders called for woodwork to build the course in 'Mud Lodge Paddock'. Ross Street Lodge served as the racecourse entrance for nearly 40 years.⁵⁵

⁵⁴ Flynn 1966 [1996]:15.

⁵⁵ *Parramatta Messenger* 22 May 1847 and *Cumberland Express* 22 May 1847 cited in Flynn, 1966 [1996]:15-16.



Figure 4.13: Part of Kirkby's plan of a park proposed for Parramatta illustrating the extent of the racecourse in the Government Domain at North Parramatta in January 1858 (Map SR Item 4807, SRNSW reproduced from Rosen 2003:118).

In May 1847 the racecourse was built on a cleared, level area in the Domain with a circuit of just under a mile, less than the former course in south Parramatta but considered to be in a 'superior' location.⁵⁶ Management of the grandstand, entrance gates and booths to the course were auctioned prior to race meetings.⁵⁷ An 1858 plan of Parramatta illustrates the large racecourse extending from the river in the south and west, to O'Connell Street in the east (Figure 4.13). The racecourse moved to Rosehill in 1885, however, the park racecourse continued to be used for training until 1893.⁵⁸

In 31 March 1863, a 'New Cricket Ground' opened at Parramatta sharing the northern Domain grounds with the racecourse, creating competing interests in the site's use. Descriptions suggest that the cricket ground was originally located within the racecourse track. The Alfreds Cricket Club was unsuccessful in their request for permission in 1875 to demolish the racecourse stands and reuse materials for their own pavilion and dressing rooms. In 1880, during the days when the rules of cricket were somewhat fluid, a team of 22 players from the club defeated a touring England team of 11.⁵⁹ In 1883 Kings School leased the southernmost ground and the Alfred Cricket Club retained the northernmost ground. The Parramatta Cricket Club secured the lease of the northern ground in

⁵⁶ *SMH* 18 May 1847, 2.

⁵⁷ *SMH* 15 Jun 1847, 1.

⁵⁸ Rosen, *Government House Parramatta 1788-2000*; Caroline Simpson 2003:215.

⁵⁹ Cheyne Wharton 1911:138-139.

1888. During the 1880s, the cricket club changed its name several times, firstly to 'Parramatta District' and then to 'Central Cumberland Electorate'. Probably by extension from the Cricket Club, the north sports oval became known as Cumberland Oval.⁶⁰

The first stand at Cumberland Oval was built in 1850 and others followed at various times up to the final structure, built in 1936. Players from the local cricket club erected a two-rail fence around the oval during the 1860s but a solid planked safety barrier was needed for motor cycle racing. The dirt track was originally 18 feet in width until expanded to 30 feet for the speedcars. The boundary fence and track remained in place after all speedway racing ended in 1959. Crashes resulted in three deaths and the oval's curator at the time suffered a broken leg from being hit during a race.

During the late 19th century, Parramatta Park north of the Parramatta River was beautified in various ways. A bridge to link the north and south sides of the park was built in 1886 but washed away around 1888. It took until 1925 for it to be replaced by the Noller Bridge, which still stands.⁶¹ Sometime prior to 1887, an octagonal pavilion was built on the north side of the river, within the present study area (Figure 4.11). It was located on a gentle spur, which would have presented attractive views. The purpose of this pavilion is unclear but it may have been used as a bandstand. In 1924-25, work took place on a new cricket wicket 'almost in a line with the old bandstand' – although this bandstand may have been elsewhere.⁶² By 1930, the earlier Pavilion appears to have been demolished and replaced with a pavilion to its south.

As Cumberland Oval became more extensively used, seating provisions for spectators increased. The last grandstand to be known as 'Cumberland Oval' was built in 1936. It became the home ground of the Parramatta District Rugby League Club (later the Parramatta Eels) when it entered the NSWRL in 1947.

Cumberland Oval was originally used for Rugby League by the Parramatta Iona and Endeavours clubs and the Western Districts representative side. When the Parramatta District Rugby League Club (later known as the Parramatta Eels) was admitted into the NSW Rugby League Premiership in 1947, Cumberland Oval became the club's home ground. The first match was played against Newtown (now Newtown Jets) on 12 April 1947, before a crowd of 6,000. The largest crowd to watch a Rugby League match at Cumberland Oval was 22,470 when the Eels took on the South Sydney Rabbitohs on 26 April 1971. Cumberland Oval remained the home ground of the Parramatta Eels until 1981, when the team won its first Premiership by defeating Newtown 20-11 in the Grand Final at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Following the win, wildly jubilant scenes erupted in Parramatta, and the Leagues Club quickly overflowed with Eels fans celebrating, with thousands rallying at nearby Cumberland Oval. In a frenzy of vandalism, fans burned the Oval's grandstand to the ground. For a while some junior Rugby League matches were played on the unfenced oval before the site was eventually redeveloped.

Based on aerial photographs, sometime in the 1960s the embankment around Cumberland Oval was expanded and the watercourse associated with the former Government Watermill and Dam was filled in to expand the carpark area. Evidence supplied by James Hardie to the NSW EPA (then part of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water) indicated that asbestos containing material had been dumped somewhere around 'Cumberland Oval' at some unspecified time. The filled area was 'referred to as access road around oval, car park and embankment'.⁶³ This

⁶⁰ *SMH* 30 Mar 1863, 1; Rosen 2003:215, 216; 'Fuller's Map of Parramatta', G. McKinnon, 1883, ML SLNSW; Cheyne Wharton 1911:138-139.

⁶¹ PPT 2008:31, 33; *Sydney Morning Herald* 30 September 1925, p 18.

⁶² Rosen 2003, Appendix I, p 54, citing PPT Minute Book, 10 July 1924; *Cumberland Argus* 5 June 1925, p 10b.

⁶³ DECCW 2009:38.

description is consistent with the 1960s landscaping, which filled in the former mill pond depression to form a carpark.

In 1977, there was a proposal for a new stadium to replace Cumberland Oval. This redevelopment faced strong opposition from many concerned about its environmental and heritage impacts on Parramatta Park. However, some form of reconstruction became inevitable after fans burnt down the old stand. Parramatta Stadium was built between 1984 and 1986, when it was opened with great fanfare by Queen Elizabeth II. The redevelopment included works that lowered the playing surface up to 4m, from approximately RL 12.5-13 to RL 9.0-9.3.⁶⁴ It was renamed Pirtek Stadium in 2013 as part of a commercial naming-rights sponsorship arrangement. In September 2015, the NSW Government announced that the stadium would be rebuilt. The Western Sydney Wanderers played their last game on the site in March 2016. The Parramatta Eels played their last game at the old Parramatta Stadium in August 2016.⁶⁵



Figure 4.14: Detail of oblique aerial photograph showing Cumberland Oval c.1950s, taken by Frank Hurley, looking southeast. nla.obj-157515572.

⁶⁴ Douglas Partners 2016:1.

⁶⁵ 'Parramatta Stadium', *Wikipedia*; 'History of Parramatta Stadium', <http://www.1eyedeel.com/forum/topics/history-of-parramatta-stadium> [accessed 18/01/2017]; *Sunday Telegraph* 27 August 2016, <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/sport/nrl/teams/eels/the-eels-great-the-queen-and-the-parramatta-stadium-conversation/news-story/57ebdb53d683ed34c05801e9b2d05bec>



Figure 4.15: View of Parramatta River, looking east towards Old Government House. The south side of the Parramatta River is on the left of this photograph. *Sydney Morning Herald* 3 February 1933, p 12.



Figure 4.16: Parramatta Park, April 1934. This photo is thought to show the north side of the Parramatta River, just to the west of the Noller Bridge. SLNSW Government Printing Office 1 – 01748.



Figure 4.17: Parramatta Park, looking south, towards Cumberland Oval, from a position north of the upper weir, n.d., possibly c.1950s. Area of mill dam circled in blue. NMA Josef Lebovic Gallery collection no. 1, obj no. 1986.0117.5509.



Figure 4.18: Detail of Figure 4.17 showing the dip (yellow arrow) where the millpond and heard race would have been prior to being backfilled after the 1960s.

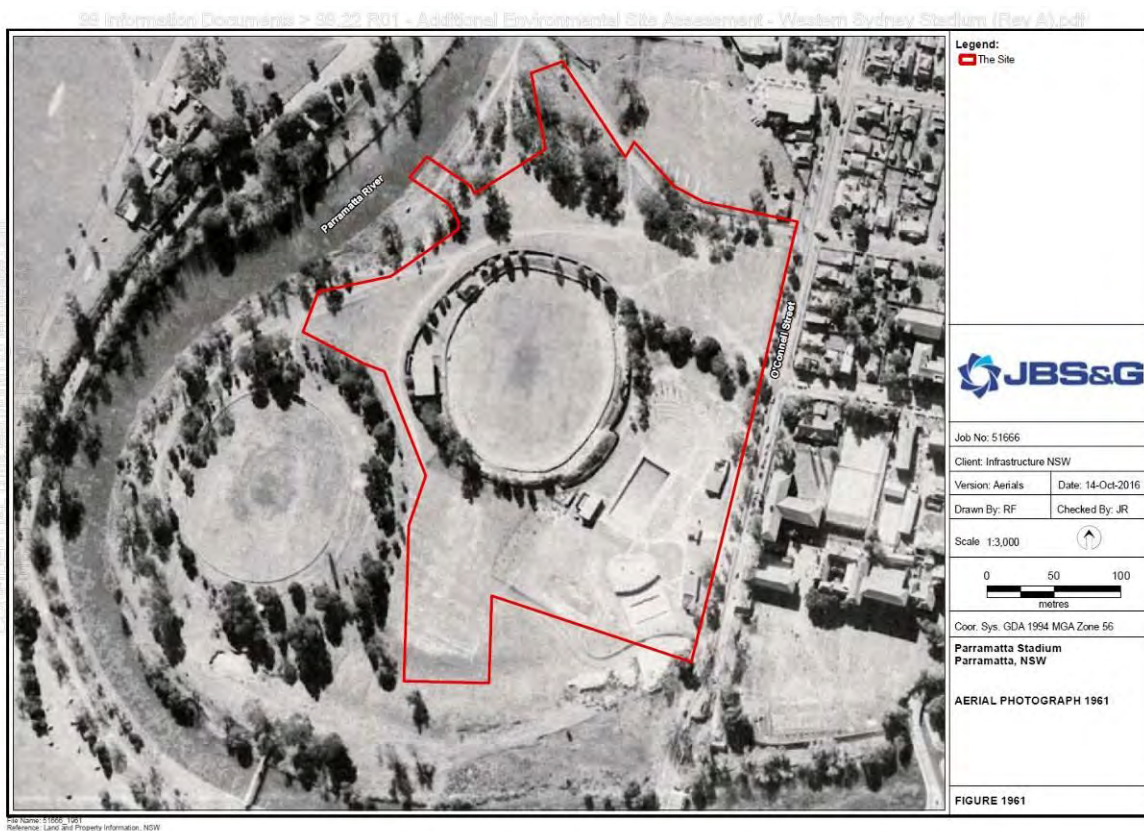


Figure 4.19: 1961 aerial photograph, from JBS&G 2016b. Study area outlined in red.

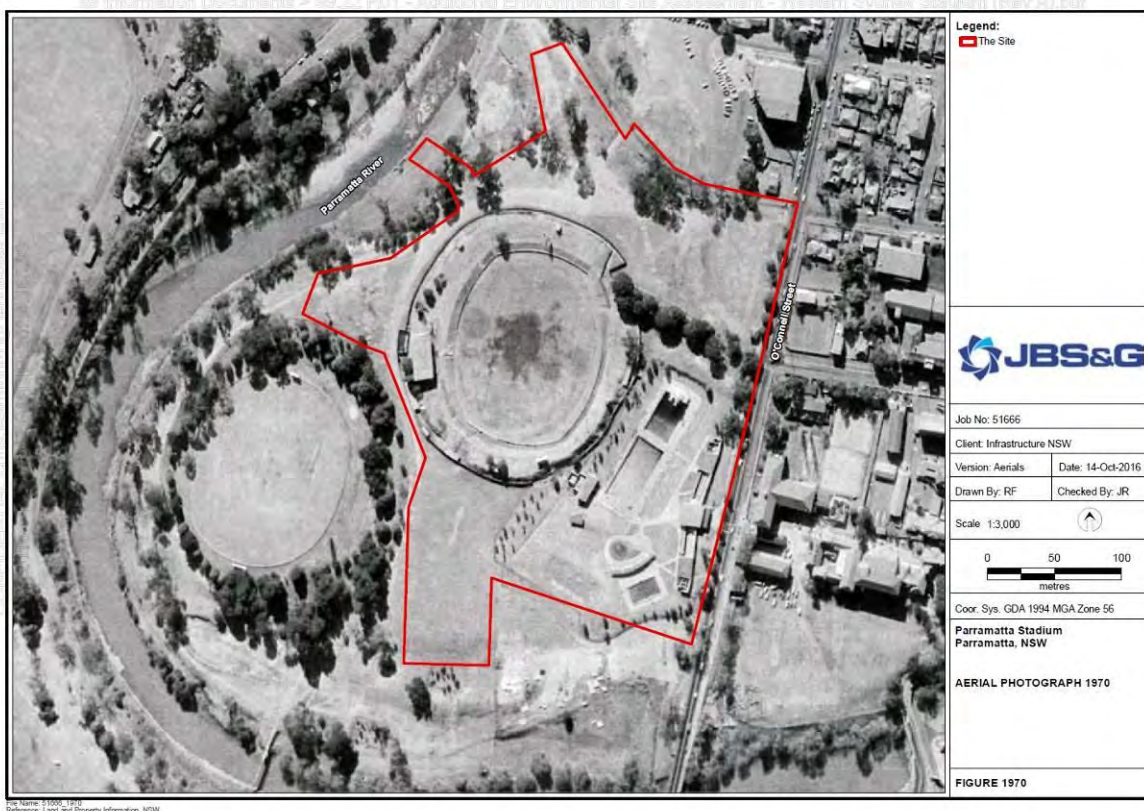


Figure 4.20: 1970 aerial photograph, from JBS&G 2016b. Study area outlined in red.

4.7.2 Parramatta War Memorial Swimming Centre

The northern part of the park underwent major changes in the mid to late 20th century including the construction of a rugby league oval, swimming centre, Parramatta Stadium, training facilities and car parking, all of which had a significant impact on the natural and historic landscape.⁶⁶

The Parramatta Swimming Centre was built between 1958 and 1966, spurred on in part by the success of Australia at the Melbourne Olympic Games. Before World War 1 most facilities were netted pools located within major waterways including Sydney Harbour, ocean beaches and rivers. After World War 2, several factors combined to increase demand for in-ground public pools in Sydney. In 1944, learn-to-swim programs became compulsory for NSW primary school children. The spread of Sydney into the western suburbs mean that harbour and ocean beaches became less accessible and by the mid-1950s 40 per cent of the population of greater Sydney lived beyond the reach of public transport, meaning the need for closer amenities.

Parramatta War Memorial Swimming Centre was designed by Figgis Cowell Ham & Jefferson Architects and was constructed between 1958 and 1966, with a water slide added on the western side of the site in 1987. Opened on 24 October 1959 when only the Olympic pool and changing facilities had been completed, the original design for the centre was to include a grandstand and war memorial clock but these were never constructed.

The earliest bathing house in Parramatta was built by Governor Brisbane for his personal use. The Centennial Baths opened in 1888 on the site of the present Riverside Theatres. After they fell into disrepair and closed in the 1930s, there were no formal swimming facilities until the construction of the swimming centre. The concept of the Parramatta War Memorial Swimming Centre was first raised in 1955 and it was originally planned to have five pools. Work continued on the complex during the 1960s and the complex is still standing.

4.7.3 Parramatta Stadium

Rugby union was played at Cumberland Oval from 1879, and rugby league from 1910. In 1986, Cumberland Oval was replaced by Parramatta Stadium, which has a capacity of over 20,000 and a large carpark for over 360 vehicles.⁶⁷

There was strong opposition from conservation groups and some community organisations to the building of a large football stadium on the site of Cumberland Oval on the grounds that it would further alienate a major part of Parramatta Park for a sectional sporting interest and would have a negative visual impact on the Park. Notwithstanding these concerns, the Government of the day proceeded with the proposal and in November 1984, the construction company Civil & Civic won the contract to design and build a new stadium on the site of Cumberland Oval. In November 1985, the stadium was complete, with a rectangular playing area several metres below the old Cumberland Oval surface. On 5 March 1986 the Parramatta Stadium was opened by Queen Elizabeth II and on 16 March the first NSW Rugby League Premiership match was played at the ground with 26,870 in attendance.

On 20 May 1990, the 1989–90 National Soccer League Grand Final between western Sydney based clubs Sydney Olympic and the Marconi Stallions was played at the venue.

⁶⁶ 'Parramatta Park Master Plan', DPWS Landscape Design Group, 15 Jan 2002, 17-18.

⁶⁷ Information about Parramatta Stadium from <http://www.parramattastadium.com.au/page/stadium>, accessed on 21/8/2014.

On 19 June 1992, the Parramatta Eels versus Great Britain Lions game on the Lions 1992 tour of Australasia attracted a crowd of 18,220, the largest non-Test match crowd of the Lions tour, with Parramatta winning 22–16.

In December 2002, work began on converting the formerly grassed hill areas (The Brett Kenny Hill and The Peter Sterling Hill) into seated terrace areas (holding 4,500 spectators). This redevelopment reduced the ground's capacity to 21,500, down from the previous capacity of 27,000.

Between 1999 and 2004, the stadium was home to Parramatta Power, a National Soccer League (NSL) club owned and operated by the Parramatta Leagues Club (owner of the Parramatta Eels Rugby League Club). With the announcement of the demise of the NSL and the creation of the A-League, the club was wound-up at the end of the 2003–4 season. Parramatta Power contested the last ever NSL Grand Final against Perth Glory at the stadium. The ground hosted seven NSL Grand Final matches, in 1986 (second leg), 1988, 1989, 1990, 1993, 2001 and 2004. In April 2007, Sydney FC played one game in the AFC Champions League against Persik Kediri at Parramatta Stadium. In February 2010, during the 2009–10 A-League season, Sydney FC defeated Perth Glory 3–2. The game had been moved from the Sydney Football Stadium due to the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. On 26 July 2012, new A-League club Western Sydney Wanderers announced a five-year deal with Parramatta Stadium, and made its debut with a crowd of 10,458. On 25 October 2014, the stadium hosted the first leg of the 2014 AFC Champions League Final between Western Sydney Wanderers and Saudi Arabian side Al-Hilal.

Parramatta Stadium has been used for various Rugby League matches such as pre-season Sevens tournaments in 1989 and 1990, and a test match against France in 1994. Parramatta Eels have been the main Rugby League team to use the stadium as their home-ground for the NRL Premiership season, since 1986. In 1995 and 1996, the ground was also used for the short-lived Sydney Tigers (formerly Balmain Tigers). In 1997 the Sydney Tigers reverted to being the Balmain Tigers and moved back to Leichhardt Oval. Also in 1995, the Canterbury Bulldogs team changed their name to 'Sydney Bulldogs', and played their home games at this ground. In 1996, they reverted to their original name and returned to Belmore Oval. The stadium was used as a host venue for the 2008 Rugby League World Cup and the 2010 Four Nations. Two of Ireland's 2008 Rugby League World Cup Group C games were played at Parramatta Stadium: one against Tonga and the other against Samoa.

On 18 September 1997 two 1999 Rugby World Cup qualifiers - Western Samoa vs Tonga and Australia vs Fiji - were played at Parramatta Stadium. A number of NSW Rugby Union club matches were played at the ground between 2001 and 2002. Australia A also played a match against Canada in 2002 at Parramatta Stadium. During 2007, Parramatta Stadium was also the home ground for the Western Sydney Rams club side that participated in the now defunct Australian Rugby Championship.

Baseball has also been played at Parramatta Stadium with the Sydney Blues playing home matches there. The Sydney Blues entered the Australian Baseball League in 1992 and played out of Parramatta Stadium to much controversy of having such a short home run fence in right field. The Sydney Blues were later known as the Sydney Storm who also played some games at Parramatta, until the collapse of the Australian Baseball League in 1999.

On 23 March 2013, the third A-League Sydney derby saw the highest A-League attendance at Parramatta Stadium, with 19,585 turning out for the occasion, which ended in a 1–1 draw.

Parramatta Stadium announced on 9 October 2013 that for the first time in the history of the stadium that it would take on a naming rights sponsor. Pirtek, a hydraulics company with origins in Western Sydney, became the sponsors of the stadium and the stadium became known officially as 'Pirtek Stadium'.

After the conversion to an all-seater stadium, plans to further expand Parramatta Stadium were originally initiated in May 2007. The Parramatta Stadium Trust announced plans to build a new southern stand with room for 2,700 extra patrons as well as a players' change room and gym. The plans were not followed through and no construction was done.

In 2010, a commission was done to establish a 'Master Plan' for the future development of the stadium. The master plan, if completed, would have had the stadium finish with a capacity of 31,300 seats as well as extensive redevelopment of the facilities for players, corporate sponsors, the media and supporters.¹

On 2 July 2013, the Australian Federal Government, the New South Wales State Government and Parramatta Local Council announced an expansion for the stadium. A pre-existing fund of \$8 million for upgrading the stadium was combined with \$20 million of new funding, with the expansion expected to increase the capacity of the stadium to 24,700.

Western Sydney Wanderers, along with their active support group the 'Red and Black Bloc' campaigned for the installation of German-style rail seating to enable safe standing in the northern stands as part of the 2015 refurbishment. In 2013, the club imported seven sets of rail seats and worked with Parramatta Stadium to perform a test installation. The proposed installation would have been the first safe seating in the country, in any sport. However, it did not move past the planning stage.

In June 2014 the NSW State Government embarked on a citywide 'Stadium Strategy', intended to cease investment in small suburban grounds, and concentrate funding on a small number of new modern facilities. This strategy was developed as the Parramatta Stadium refurbishment completed new corporate hospitality facilities, player facilities, food and drink outlets, bathrooms, training field and gym facilities, all of which were located in the main grandstand. They were completed in mid-2015, while the additional seating at either end of the ground was halted pending a decision on where Parramatta would stand in the new stadium strategy.

In September 2015, the New South Wales Government announced that the stadium would be replaced with a new 30,000 seat venue on the same site.