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*Martin Carney
Director
(mobile 0411 727 395)*



Archaeological Management & Consulting Group

AMAC – Aegis Pty Limited ABN 14 627 076 751

Ph (02) 9568 6093
Fax (02) 9568 6093
Mob 0411 727 395
E-mail amac@archaeological.com.au

Cover Image

1905 parish map of Castle Hill
Study site outlined in red
SLNSW (74VvNvgLx3M)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Freecity Rouse Hill Development Pty Ltd has commissioned the Archaeological Management and Consulting Group to prepare a Baseline Archaeological Assessment for proposed development at 2-30 Tempus Street, Rouse Hill. This report has been prepared as supporting documentation to State Significant Development Application (SSD-76190964).

The study site is that piece of land described as Lot 19 in Deposited Plan 280013. It is known by the street address 2-20 Tempus Street, Rouse Hill in the Parish of Castle Hill, County of Cumberland.

A Historical Baseline Assessment is prepared in accordance with Heritage NSW guidelines (NSW Heritage Manual 1996). This document will assess the potential historical archaeological relics within the proposed development footprint to produce a set of recommendations that are optimal for the project under the Heritage Act 1977. Recommendations may range from: no further action, collaboration with designers to conserve significant archaeology, or an appropriate approvals strategy to permit development excavation as guided by archaeological fieldwork.

The Baseline Assessment can act as a standalone document. If it is found that the development activities will impact the site's historical archaeological heritage, the Assessment may recommend archaeological fieldwork which would require the preparation of a Research Design and Archaeological Excavation Methodology. An Archaeological Research Design and Work Method Statement is required to be prepared by a qualified archaeologist.

This report considers Historical Archaeology only. This report conforms to Heritage Office Guidelines for Archaeological Assessment.¹ This report does not consider the potential Aboriginal archaeology of the study site. However, any Aboriginal sites and objects remain protected by the National Parks and Wildlife Act (see Section 1.5.2).

This report does not consider the study site's built heritage significance or values which require separate assessment under the *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW).

The discovery of unknown and unassessed remains will require additional assessment and may require written notification to Heritage NSW under Section 146 of the Heritage Act 1977.

Documentary Research

The study site is a part of 60 acres of land granted to Michael Hickson in 1809. The site remained part of these 60 acres and a much larger piece of land for most of the 19th and 20th centuries. The land was owned by several pastoralists, graziers and orchardists during this period. No evidence has been found to suggest that the study site was physically developed or permanently occupied during the 19th or 20th centuries.

Physical Evidence

Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries the study site was utilised as paddocks for pastoral activities. These activities are unlikely to have created an archaeological record. No evidence has been found to suggest that the study site was developed during the 19th or 20th centuries. The study site therefore holds nil archaeological potential.

¹ Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (1996).

Significance

No evidence has been found to suggest that the study site was developed in the 19th or 20th centuries and appears to have only been used for pastoral activities during this time. It is not expected to yield an archaeological resource with high research value and therefore is not considered of local or State significance.

Recommendations.

As no known archaeological remains are expected to exist at the study site, the proposed development will have no impact or disturbance to relics. The development can proceed without further historical archaeological input. No archaeological field work will be required at the study site.

No heritage impacts are anticipated by the proposed development and the development does not require further historical archaeological management under the *Heritage Act 1977*. No archaeological field works are required.

It is suggested that an Unexpected Finds Protocol be prepared by a qualified archaeologist in advance of development works which can be supplied to contractors as a guide to use on site detailing relevant stop work procedures should unexpected relics be exposed during works.

GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

The following definition of terms have mostly derived from the glossary provided in Heritage Office Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (1996) *Archaeological Assessments*.

Term	Definition
AMAC Group	Archaeological Management and Consulting Group
AMP	Archaeological Management Plan
AZP	Archaeological Zoning Plan
Archaeological feature	Any physical evidence of past human activity. Archaeological features include buildings, works, relics, structures, foundations, deposits, cultural landscapes and shipwrecks. On archaeological excavations the term 'feature' may be used in a specific sense to refer to any item that is not a structure, a layer or an artefact (for example, a post hole).
Artefacts	An object produced by human activity. In historical archaeology the term usually refers to small object contained within occupation deposits. The term may encompass food or plant remains and ecological features (for example, pollen).
CMP	Conservation Management Plan
Conservation	The processes of looking after a place so as to retain its heritage significance.
Contact sites	Sites which are associated with interaction between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.
DCP	Development Control Plan
DP	Deposited Plan
Heritage NSW	Formerly known as the Heritage Division, Heritage Branch. Now also governing body managing Aboriginal cultural heritage, previously known as Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)
Historical Archaeology	The study of the human past using both material evidence and documentary sources. In Australia 'historical archaeology' excludes Aboriginal archaeology prior to non-indigenous occupation but may include 'contact' sites.
LEP	Local Environment Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
LTO	Land Titles Office
NPW Act	National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
OEH	Now Heritage NSW (see above)
Post-contact	A term used to refer to study archaeological sites dating after European occupation in 1788.
Relic	Defined by the NSW Heritage Act (see Section 1.5.3) as: "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"
S57	Refers to definition of Section 57 in the NSW Heritage Act 1977
S60	Refers to definition of Section 60 in the NSW Heritage Act 1977
S139	Refers to definition of Section 139 in the NSW Heritage Act 1977
S140	Refers to definition of Section 140 in the NSW Heritage Act 1977
SOHI	Statement of Heritage Impact
SHI	State Heritage Inventory
SHR	State Heritage Register
Work	Archaeological material related to road and rail infrastructure which is not considered a relic in terms of the NSW Heritage Act 1977, though may retain archaeological significance independent of the statutory definitions. The interpretation of a 'work' has been previously defined in consultation with the Heritage Division.



Figure 1.1 Site location outlined in red.
NSW Land Registry Services, Six Maps Viewer, accessed 06/09/2024.



Figure 1.2 Aerial photograph showing the study site outline in red.
NSW Land Registry Services, Six Maps Viewer, accessed 06/09/2024.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Freecity Rouse Hill Development Pty Ltd has commissioned the Archaeological Management and Consulting Group to prepare a Baseline Archaeological Assessment for proposed development at 2-30 Tempus Street, Rouse Hill. This report has been prepared as supporting documentation to State Significant Development Application (SSD-76190964).

1.2 STUDY AREA

The study site is that piece of land described as Lot 19 in Deposited Plan 280013. It is known by the street address 2-20 Tempus Street, Rouse Hill in the Parish of Castle Hill, County of Cumberland.

1.3 SCOPE

A Historical Baseline Assessment is prepared in accordance with Heritage NSW guidelines (NSW Heritage Manual 1996). This document will assess the potential historical archaeological relics within the proposed development footprint to produce a set of recommendations that are optimal for the project under the Heritage Act 1977. Recommendations may range from: no further action, collaboration with designers to conserve significant archaeology, or an appropriate approvals strategy to permit development excavation as guided by archaeological fieldwork.

The Baseline Assessment can act as a standalone document. If it is found that the development activities will impact the site's historical archaeological heritage, the Assessment may recommend archaeological fieldwork which would require the preparation of a Research Design and Archaeological Excavation Methodology. An Archaeological Research Design and Work Method Statement is required to be prepared by a qualified archaeologist.

This report considers Historical Archaeology only. This report conforms to Heritage Office Guidelines for Archaeological Assessment.² This report does not consider the potential Aboriginal archaeology of the study site. However, any Aboriginal sites and objects remain protected by the National Parks and Wildlife Act (see Section 1.5.2).

This report does not consider the study site's built heritage significance or values which require separate assessment under the *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW).

The discovery of unknown and unassessed remains will require additional assessment and may require written notification to Heritage NSW under Section 146 of the Heritage Act 1977.

1.4 AUTHOR IDENTIFICATION

This report was written and researched by Emma Williams, senior archaeologist of Amac Group. This report was reviewed by Kelly Strickland, associate director of AMAC Group.

² Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (1996).

1.5 STATUTORY CONTROLS AND HERITAGE STUDIES

1.5.1 NSW Heritage Act 1977 (as amended)

The NSW Heritage Act 1977 affords automatic statutory protection to relics that form archaeological deposits or part thereof. The Act defines relics as:

Relic means any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that:

- (a) relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and
- (b) is of State or local heritage significance

Sections 139 to 145 of the Act prevent the excavation or disturbance of land for the purpose of discovering, exposing or moving a relic, except by a qualified archaeologist to whom an excavation permit has been issued by the Heritage Council of NSW.

1.5.2 National Parks and Wildlife Act (1974)

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (as amended) affords protection to all Aboriginal objects and is governed by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. These objects are defined as:

any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains.³

It is an offence to destroy Aboriginal objects or places without the consent of the Director-General.⁴ Section 86 discusses 'Harming or desecration of Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places':

1.5.3 State Heritage Register and State Heritage Inventory

The NSW State Heritage Register and State Heritage Inventory are lists which contain which contains places, items and areas of heritage value to New South Wales. These places are protected under the New South Wales Heritage Act 1977.

The site is not listed on the NSW State Heritage Register or the NSW State Heritage Inventory.

1.5.4 National Heritage List

The National Heritage List is a list which contains places, items and areas of outstanding heritage value to Australia. This can include places and areas overseas as well as items of Aboriginal significance and origin. These places are protected under the Australian Government's EPBC Act.

The study site is not listed on the National Heritage List.

1.5.5 Commonwealth Heritage List

The Commonwealth Heritage List can include natural, Indigenous and historic places of value to the nation. Items on this list are under Commonwealth ownership or control and as such are identified, protected and managed by the federal government.

³ Part 1 Section 5, *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

⁴ Part 6 Section 90 (1) *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

The study site is not listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List.

1.5.6 The Hills Local Environment Plan (2019)

The Hills LEP was endorsed in 2019. Heritage Conservation is discussed in Part 5; Section 5.10. The following section highlights the archaeological considerations of a site in relation to developments:

7) Archaeological sites

The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause to the carrying out of development on an archaeological site (other than land listed on the State Heritage Register or to which an interim heritage order under the *Heritage Act 1977* applies):

- (a) notify the Heritage Council of its intention to grant consent, and
- (b) take into consideration any response received from the Heritage Council within 28 days after the notice is sent.

Schedule 5 of this plan lists Items of Environmental Heritage with heritage items listed in Part 1, Heritage Conservation areas listed in Part 2 and Archaeological Sites listed in Part 3. The study site is not listed as a heritage item, archaeological item or within a heritage conservation area.

1.5.7 Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SSD-76190964)

Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SSD-76190964), requirement 19 states the following and this report addresses this requirement.

19 Environmental Heritage

Where there is potential for direct or indirect impacts on the heritage significance of environmental heritage, provide a Statement of Heritage Impact and Archaeological Assessment (if potential impacts to archaeological resources are identified), prepared in accordance with the relevant guidelines, which assesses any impacts and outlines measures to ensure they are minimised and mitigated.

- Statement of Heritage Impact
- Archaeological Assessment

1.6 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Simon Liang and Daniel Hodgeson of Freecity Rouse Hill Development Pty Ltd, Sarah Noone and Simon Wilkes of Urbis Planning, Sarrah Mae De Los Santos of Architectus for all their assistance during the reporting process.

2.0 SITE HISTORY

2.1 HISTORY OF ROUSE HILL

The traditional owners of the land now known as Rouse Hill are the Dharug and the Gandangara. The boundary between the territories of these two language groups and dialect groups is unclear. Attenbrow suggests that speakers of the hinterland dialect of the Dharug were spread across the Cumberland Lowlands, from the Hawkesbury River in the north to Appin in the area south-west of the Georges River, Parramatta, the Lane Cove River and Berowra Creek.⁵ The Gandangara inhabited the southern rim of the Cumberland Lowlands west of the Georges River and into the southern Blue Mountains.

Land in the area of Castle Hill was first set aside for proposed grain production on behalf the Crown in 1802 when 34 539 acres was set aside by Governor Philip Gidley King in what is now the Parish of Castle Hill.⁶ Richard Rouse took up 450 acres of land in 1816, at the request of Governor Lachlan Macquarie this grant was named 'Rouse Hill' later the locality was named 'Rouse Hill', it had previously been known as 'Vinegar Hill'.

The area is known for the Battle of Vinegar Hill, also known as the Castle Hill Rebellion. The uprising occurred in March 1804 when convicts armed with stolen rifles and makeshift weapons planned to march on Parramatta.⁷ The plot was betrayed, and the convicts were overpowered at the site that became known as Vinegar Hill.

Rouse had occupied his grant from at least 1813 and had started constructing Rouse Hill House soon after. The Royal Oak Inn was constructed in Rouse Hill in 1826. The Christ Church of England was constructed along Windsor Road and was consecrated in 1878. The church cemetery was established nearby on Mile End Road. An Anglican school was run from the church grounds from 1862 to 1875 and continued as Rouse Hill Public School until 1878.⁸ A new school was established further to the north of the church opposite Rouse Hill House. A Watch House (later Rouse Hill Police Station) was constructed on Windsor Road and Annangrove Road and functioned until 1932.⁹

The suburb of Rouse Hill maintained a largely rural characteristic until the 21st century.

⁵ Attenbrow 2002.

⁶ Jervis 1926

⁷ Pollon 1996, 231.

⁸ McClymont 2003.

⁹ McClymont 2003.

2.2 ORIGINAL GRANT AND SUBSEQUENT OWNERS

The study site is a small part of 60 acres (portion 84) granted to Michael Hickson in 1809. Several grants of similar size were made to the north and south of Hickson's 60 acres to Lucy Mileham, Elizabeth and Michael Robinson and Edward Robinson. No information has been found about the life of Michael Hickson.

In the 1820s Jonas and William Bradley began purchasing the land grants surrounding Hickson's grant, having already been granted land on the opposite side of Windsor Road. Although exact title documents could not be found of Bradley purchasing Hickson's 60 acres, it likely occurred during this time as a sale from William Bradley to Elias Pearson Laycock has been found dating to the 1850s. Jonas and William Bradley were father and son. Jonas Bradley was a sergeant in the NSW Corps.¹⁰ William was his second son with his wife Catherine, born in Windsor in 1800. William Bradley was a successful pastoralist. In 1831 he married Emily Elizabeth Hovell, only daughter of explorer William Hovell.¹¹ The couple had six daughters and two sons. William Bradley died at his Darling Point residence in 1868.¹²

William Bradley sold Hickson's 60 acres to Elias Pearson Laycock in 1852. Elias Pearson Laycock was born in Bringelly in 1821. In 1845 he was married to Grace Lysaght Longfield, and they had six daughters and three sons.¹³ Laycock was a grazier, he and his family don't appear to have occupied the study site.¹⁴ Laycock sold the land including the study site to Robert Pearce in 1866.

Robert Pearce was born in 1836. He married Euphemia Hillas in 1866.¹⁵ Pearce is described in title documents as an orchardist. Newspaper articles from Robert Pearce's death in 1914 state that he was a resident of Rouse Hill although it is unlikely that this refers to the study site.¹⁶ Pearce owned the land for nearly 30 years before it passed to his son Robert Woodward Pearce in 1895. In the title document for the sale to Robert Woodward Pearce, Hickson's 60 acres is now combined with the grants to Mileham, Robinson and Robinson under the ownership of Pearce (see Table 2.1 for sketch). Robert Woodward Pearce was also an orchardist, and he died in 1943.¹⁷ He sold the land including the study site to Paul Gore Ormsby, another orchardist in 1914.

Paul Gore Ormsby owned the land for less than a year before selling to Edward Charles Baker, grazier. Edward Baker owned the until 1949 when it was sold to J.N. Brimbecom Pty Limited. In 1954 the land was sold to Ian Conrad Scharkie, Robert Fyfe Scharkie and Neil Lester Sharkie. For most of its history, the study site remained as part of Michael Hickson's original 60 acres or part of a larger parcel of land.

¹⁰ Walsh 1969.

¹¹ Walsh 1969.

¹² Walsh 1969.

¹³ Australian Royalty: Genealogy of the colony of NSW. Elias Pearson Laycock, 1821–1886.

¹⁴ Family Notices (1879, December 16). *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 1.

¹⁵ Australian Royalty: Genealogy of the colony of NSW. Robert Pearce, 1836–1914.

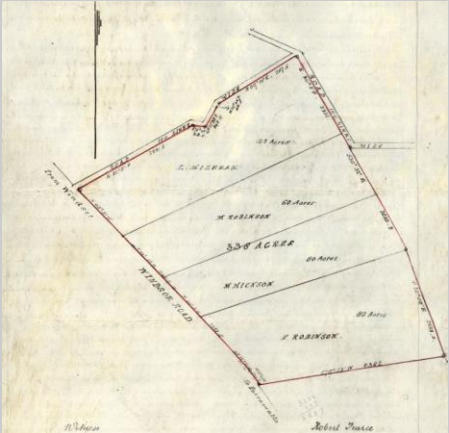
¹⁶ Death of Mr. Robert Pearce. (1914, November 7). *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 6.

¹⁷ Family Notices (1943, March 1). *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 8.

2.3 DEVELOPMENT

No evidence has been found to suggest that the study site was developed in the 19th or 20th centuries. The owners of the land through the years have been pastoralists, graziers or orchardists and it appears that none of them occupied the site domestically. In an 1885 survey of Windsor Road, Hickson's grant is labelled as 'cleared paddocks' (Figure 2.1). Parish maps from 1897 and 1905 do not indicate development within the study site (Figure 2.2-Figure 2.3). The 1947 aerial shows lines that could indicate some form of cultivation was occurring within the study site (Figure 2.4). The study site is currently still undeveloped however its immediate surrounds are now heavily developed as the Rouse Hill Town Centre shopping centre. This development occurred in the 21st century (Figure 2.5-Figure 2.7).

Table 2.1 Title documents.

Date	Title Information	Reference
18 Oct 1809	Original Grant Michael Hickson	Vol 8439 Fol 145
28 Oct 1852	Conveyance From: William Bradley To: Elias Pearson Laycock 'being the land granted to Michael Hickson'	Bk 24 No 594
7 Aug 1866	Conveyance From: Elias Pearson Laycock To: Robert Pearce	99-550
22 Nov 1895	Conveyance From: Robert Pearce (orchardist) To: Robert Woodward Pearce (son of Robert Pearce) 	Bk 612 No 518
22 Jul 1914	From: Robert Woodward Pearce To: Paul Gore Ormsby (orchardist)	Bk 1035 No 18
18 Mar 1915	From: Paul Gore Ormsby To: Edward Charles Baker (grazier)	Bk 1052 No 601
11 Nov 1922	Certificate of Title	Vol 3387 Fol 133



	<p>Edward Charles Baker of Rouse Hill (grazier) applicant in primary application No 22416 is now the proprietor of an estate in fee simple</p> 	
<p>5 Dec 1949</p>	<p>Certificate of Title</p> <p>J.N. Brimbecom Pty Limited is now the proprietor of an estate in fee simple</p>	<p>Vol 6066 Fol 139</p>
<p>15 Sep 1954</p>	<p>Ian Conrad Scharkie, Robert Fyfe Scharkie and Neil Lester Sharkie</p> <p>As proprietors of an estate in fee simple in an undivided one third share (each)</p> 	<p>Vol 6861 Fol 82-84</p>
<p>3 Apr 1963</p>	<p>Ian Conrad Scharkie and Robert Fyfe Scharkie</p> <p>As proprietors of an estate in fee simple in an undivided one-half share</p>	<p>Vol 8439 Fol 145-14</p>



Figure 2.1 1885 survey of Windsor Road.
 Study site outlined in red
 NSW LRS Crown Plan 3172.1603.



Figure 2.2 1897 parish map of Castle Hill.
 Study site outlined in red.
 NSW Government, HLRV.

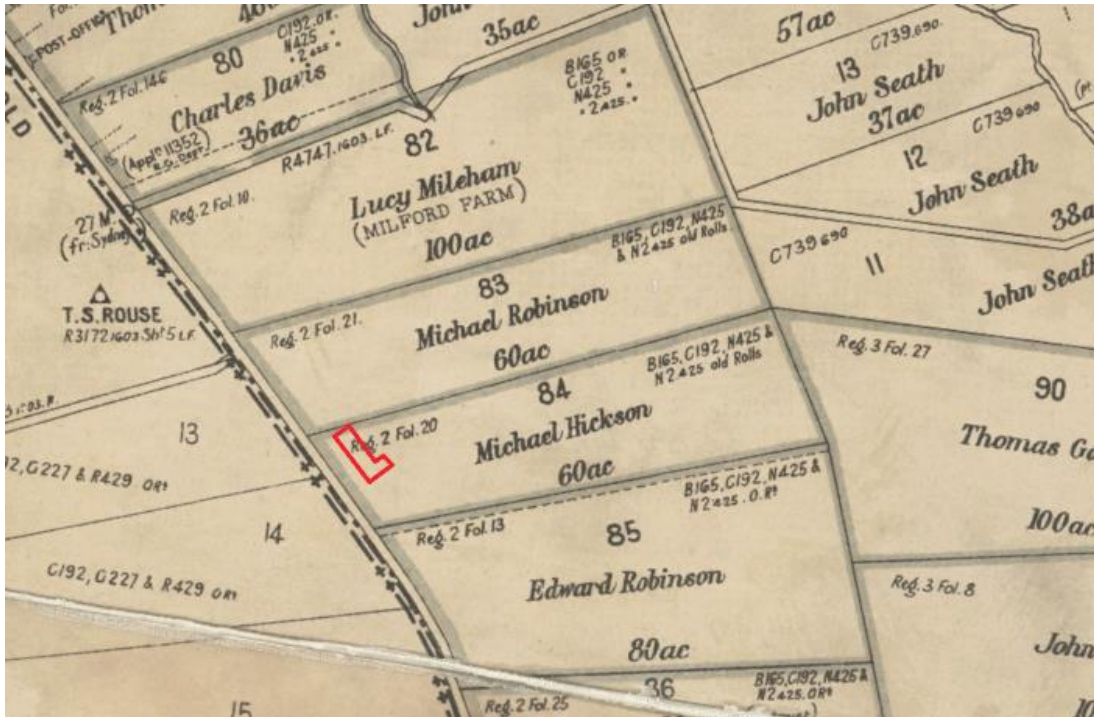


Figure 2.3 c. 1905 parish map of Castle Hill. Study site outlined in red. SLNSW (74VvNvgLx3M).



Figure 2.4 1947 aerial.
Study site outlined in red.
NSW Spatial Service, Historic Imagery.



Figure 2.5 1978 aerial.
Study site outlined in red.
NSW Spatial Service, Historic Imagery.



Figure 2.6 1998 aerial.
Study site outlined in red.
NSW Spatial Service, Historic Imagery.



Figure 2.7 2005 aerial.
Study site outlined in red.
NSW Spatial Service, Historic Imagery.

2.4 CONCLUSIONS OF HISTORIC RESEARCH

- The study site forms part of 60 acres originally granted to Michael Hickson in 1809.
- The study site stayed part of larger land parcels throughout the 19th and 20th centuries and was owned by pastoralists, graziers and orchardists.
- No evidence has been found to suggest that the study site was historically developed during the 19th century or 20th century.

3.0 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

3.1 SITE INSPECTION

Kelly Strickland and Emma Williams of AMAC Group inspected the study site on the 14th of October 2024. The study site is currently undeveloped. It is bounded by Tempus Street to the south, White Hart Drive to the east and car parks to the north and west.

The entire study area is very by an artificially built-up earth mound. It is significantly higher than the footpath surrounding it. This topography appears manufactured and not a reflection of original ground surface levels. The site's frontage to White Hart Drive further indicates the manufactured levels in comparison to the adjacent loading dock. The ground surface is covered by bark chips and leaf litter. The site is landscaped with bushes and mature gum trees.



Figure 3.1 Study site facing southeast, showing the built-up earth mound.
AMAC Group, 14/10/2024, IMG_8748.



Figure 3.2 Leaf litter and bark chips on the ground surface of the site, facing north.
AMAC Group, 14/10/2024, IMG_8740.



Figure 3.3 Study site facing north, showing built up earth mound.
AMAC Group, 14/10/2024, IMG_8768.



Figure 3.4 Bushes and mature trees within the study site, facing west.
AMAC Group, 14/10/2024, IMG_8771.



Figure 3.5 Study site facing west.
AMAC Group, 14/10/2024, IMG_8759.

3.2 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The study site is located within the Blacktown soil landscape. The Blacktown (bt) soil profile is located over much of the Cumberland Lowlands and the Moss Vale Tablelands as well as on the Woronora Plateau at Menai, Engadine, Sutherland, Caringbah and Darkes Forest. The geology is Ashfield laminite and siltstone and Bringelly shale containing occasional claystone, laminite and coal. Soils are typically shallow to moderately deep red and brown podsols on crests and upper slopes and deeper yellow podsols and soloths on lower slopes along drainage lines. Soil acidity, ironstone and gravel shale fragments tend to increase with depth.

Table 3.1 Description of dominant soil material.

Dominant Soil Material	Soil Horizon	Description
bt1	A1 Horizon	Friable brownish-black loam to clay loam, can range from dark reddish brown to dark yellowish-brown. Blocky structure with rounded iron indurated fine gravel-sized shale fragments and charcoal fragments.
bt2	A2 Horizon	Hardsetting brown clay loam to silty clay loam, can range from dark reddish brown to dark brown. Weakly pedal structure with platy ironstone and gravel sized shale fragments as well as charcoal fragments.
bt3	B Horizon	Brown light- medium clay, can range from reddish brown to brown. Mottles of red, yellow and grey are common, increasing in depth. Strongly pedal polyhedral or sub angular blocky structure with fine coarse gravel sized shale fragments, these often occur in stratified bands.
bt4	B/C Horizon	Plastic light grey silty clay to heavy clay can range from greyish yellow. Mottles of red, yellow and grey are common. Moderate pedal polyhedral to sub angular blocky structure and smooth faced dense ped fabric, contains gravel sized shale fragments as well as strongly weather ironstone concretions and rock fragments are common.

3.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

'Archaeological potential' describes the likelihood for archaeological remains to survive at a particular site.¹⁸ This discussion considers the range of possible historical archaeological features and deposits at the study site, the factors that affect their creation or survival and provides concluding statements.

No evidence has been found to suggest that the study site was developed during the 19th or 20th centuries. At most, the study site and the land surrounding it was used for pastoral activities, grazing and for the growing of trees. These activities are unlikely to have created an archaeological record. As no evidence has been found that the site was ever developed in the 19th or 20th centuries, the study site holds nil archaeological potential for relics related to its 19th or 20th century use.

3.4 CONCLUSIONS OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

- The study site is entirely comprised of landscaped vegetation, currently providing a green curtilage to the perimeter of the Rouse Hill Town Centre. This topography appears manufactured and not a reflection of original ground surface levels.
- The study site is situated within the Blacktown (bt) soil landscape.
- The study site holds nil archaeological potential for relics related to its 19th or 20th century use.

¹⁸ Heritage Office, Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (1996), p. 15.

4.0 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

4.1 METHODOLOGY

The current standard for assessment of significance of heritage items in NSW is the publication ‘Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and ‘Relics’ produced by the Heritage Branch of the NSW Department of Planning (December 2009). This production is an update to the NSW Heritage Manual (1996), and the criteria detailed therein are a revised version of those of the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter, formulated in 1979, which was based largely on the Venice Charter (for International Heritage) of 1966.

Archaeological heritage significance can also be viewed in light of the framework set out by Bickford and Sullivan in 1984.¹⁹ Bickford and Sullivan, taking into consideration the “archaeological, scientific or research significance” of a site posed three questions in order to identify significance:

1. Can the site contribute knowledge which no other resource can?
2. Can the site contribute knowledge which no other site can?
3. Is this knowledge relevant to general questions about human history or other substantive problems relating to Australian history, or does it contribute to other major research questions?²⁰

These questions have been broadly used to shape the response to the heritage significance criteria as described in Section 4.2 and 4.3.

The criteria and the definitions provided by ‘Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and ‘Relics’ have been adhered to in assessing the cultural significance of the potential archaeological site at 2-30 Tempus Street, Rouse Hill. An assessment of significance, under each of the criteria, is made possible by an analysis of the broad body of archaeological sites previously excavated both locally and elsewhere, in conjunction with the historical overview of the study site in particular.

The Criteria used to assess Heritage Significance in NSW are the following:

Table 4.1 Criteria for Assessing Heritage in NSW

Criterion	Description
A - Historical	An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's or the local area's cultural or natural history
B - Associative	An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's or a local area's cultural or natural history
C - Aesthetic or Technical	An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW or the local area
D - Social	An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW or a local area for social, cultural or spiritual reasons
E - Research	An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's or a local area's cultural or natural history

¹⁹ Bickford and Sullivan (1984)

²⁰ Bickford and Sullivan (1984), p.23-4

Criterion	Description
F - Rarity	An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's or a local area's cultural or natural history
G - Representativeness	An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's or a local area's <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cultural or natural places; or - cultural or natural environments

The following assessment deals only with sub-surface archaeological features and deposits. The built environment is not considered in this study.

4.2 IDENTIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

Criterion A - Historical

An item is important in the course, or pattern, of cultural or natural history of NSW or a local area?

Does not meet the threshold for significance.

Reason

No evidence has been found to suggest that the study site was developed during the 19th or 20th centuries. At most the study site was used for pastoral activities which are not expected to leave a substantial archaeological resource. The site holds nil archaeological potential and is not considered significant according to this criterion.

Criterion B - Associative

An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance to the cultural or natural history of NSW or a local area?

Does not meet the threshold for significance.

Reason

The study site was owned by a number of different graziers and orchardists throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. This relationship is not expected to be reflected in the archaeological record of the site, and therefore does not meet the threshold for significance according to this criterion.

Criterion C – Aesthetic or Technical

An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW or a local area?

Does not meet the threshold for significance.

Reason

The study site is not considered significant according to this criterion.

Criterion D - Social

An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group, in NSW or a local area, for social, cultural or spiritual reasons?

Does not meet the threshold for significance.

Reason

As the study site was not historically developed it is unlikely to hold any value to the local community. The study site is not considered significant according to this criterion.

Criterion E - Research

An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the cultural or natural history of NSW or a local area?

Does not meet the threshold for significance.

Reason

The study site is not expected to yield an archaeological resource, as a result it will not be able to contribute to our understanding of the history of the local area. The study site is not considered significant according to this criterion.

Criterion F - Rarity

An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of cultural or natural history for NSW or a local area?

Does not meet the threshold for significance.

Reason

The study site holds nil archaeological potential for remains from the 19th century, it does not represent a rare resource and is not considered significant according to this criterion.

Criterion G - Representativeness

An item is important, to NSW or a local area, for demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or cultural or natural environments?

Does not meet the threshold for significance.

Reason

The study site represents over 200 years of pastoral use in the area and not subject to urban development until the 21st century. However, this use is common to the wide region and not expected to yield a substantial archaeological record. The site does not reach the threshold for significance according to this criterion.

4.3 STATEMENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

No evidence has been found to suggest that the study site was developed in the 19th or 20th centuries and appears to have only been used for pastoral activities during this time. It is not expected to yield an archaeological resource with high research value and therefore is not considered of local or State significance.

5.0 STATEMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE IMPACT

Heritage impact statements discuss a proposed development and highlight potential impacts to the archaeological resource of a site. This section discusses the significance of the resource, what impact the proposed works will have on that significance, what measures could mitigate negative impacts or why more sympathetic solutions are not viable.²¹

5.1 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Site preparation works including removal of temporary planting, bulk excavation and earthworks

Construction and operation of an 11, 18 and 23 storey mixed use development, comprising:

- Consolidated podium comprising ground level lobby, retail and wellness tenancies, and two levels of commercial floor space above
- 216 co-living units within the 11-storey tower
- 332 build-to-rent units across the 18 and 23-storey towers, including 105 units in a dual key configuration
- Rooftop internal and external amenity spaces on each tower to service the build-to-rent and co-living residents

Landscaping and public domain works, including:

- Retaining existing street trees
- Provision of a deep soil landscaped buffer zone along the rear boundary
- On-structure landscaping on each rooftop.

Construction and use of two basement levels, accessed from White Hart Drive, to accommodate:

- 111 car spaces
- Motorcycle and bicycle parking
- Loading dock facilities

Extension and augmentation of services and infrastructure as required.

²¹ Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (1996) NSW Heritage Manual: Statements of Heritage Impact.

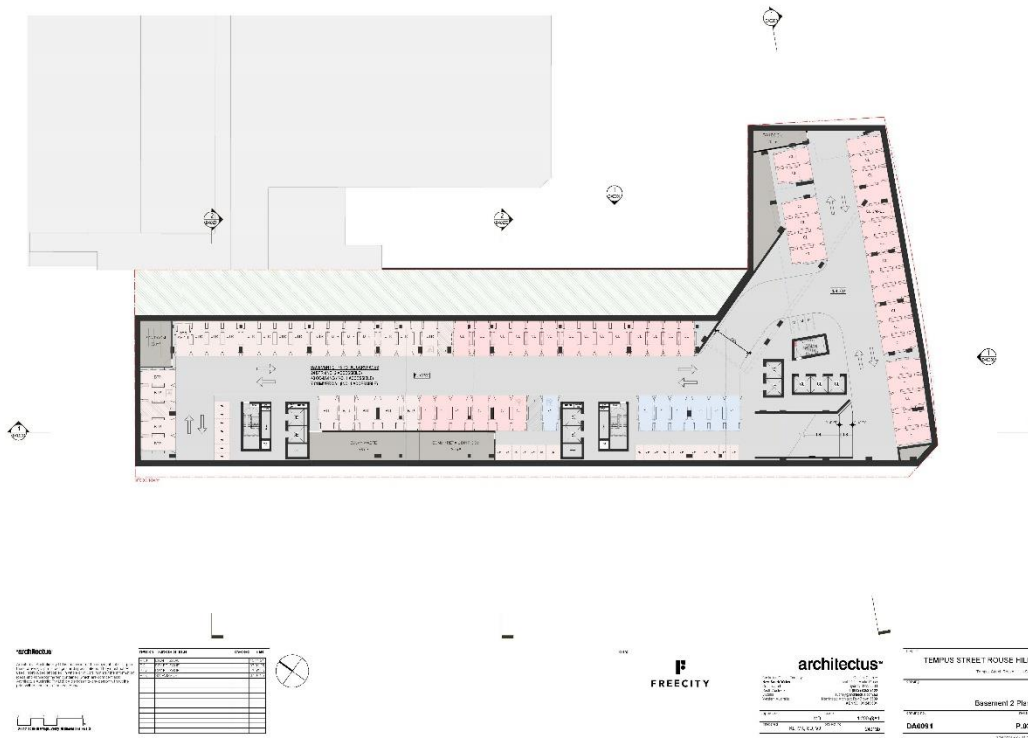


Figure 5.1 Basement level 2 plan.
Architectus, Architectus, April 2025, DA 0091 P.02



Figure 5.2 Ground plan
Architectus, April 2025, DA 0100 P.02

5.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE IMPACT

As no known archaeological remains are expected to exist at the study site, the proposed development will have no impact or disturbance to relics. The development can proceed without further historical archaeological involvement. No archaeological fieldwork will be required at the study site.

It is suggested that an Unexpected Finds Protocol be prepared by a qualified archaeologist in advance of development works which can be supplied to contractors as a guide to use on site detailing relevant stop work procedures should unexpected relics be exposed during works.

5.3 CONCLUSIONS OF SOHI

- The proposed development seeks to construct a mixed-use precinct apartment building comprising short-stay accommodation and purpose built rental housing.
- Deep excavation work will be required for construction of two basement car park levels, which will encompass the entire study area footprint.
- The proposed development will have no impact or disturbance to historical relics under *Heritage Act 1977*.
- The development can proceed without further archaeological management.
- It is suggested that an Unexpected Finds Protocol be prepared by a qualified archaeologist.

6.0 RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 RESULTS

6.1.1 Documentary Research

The study site is a part of 60 acres of land granted to Michael Hickson in 1809. The site remained part of these 60 acres and a much larger piece of land for most of the 19th and 20th centuries. The land was owned by several pastoralists, graziers and orchardists during this period. No evidence has been found to suggest that the study site was physically developed or permanently occupied during the 19th or 20th centuries.

6.1.2 Physical Evidence

Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries the study site was utilised as paddocks for pastoral activities. These activities are unlikely to have created an archaeological record. No evidence has been found to suggest that the study site was developed during the 19th or 20th centuries. The study site therefore holds nil archaeological potential.

6.1.3 Significance

No evidence has been found to suggest that the study site was developed in the 19th or 20th centuries and appears to have only been used for pastoral activities during this time. It is not expected to yield an archaeological resource with high research value and therefore is not considered of local or State significance.

6.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE IMPACT

As no known archaeological remains are expected to exist at the study site, the proposed development will have no impact or disturbance to relics. The development can proceed without further historical archaeological input. No archaeological field work will be required at the study site.

6.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

No heritage impacts are anticipated by the proposed development and the development does not require further historical archaeological management under the *Heritage Act 1977*. No archaeological field works are required.

It is suggested that an Unexpected Finds Protocol be prepared by a qualified archaeologist in advance of development works which can be supplied to contractors as a guide to use on site detailing relevant stop work procedures should unexpected relics be exposed during works.

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