221-291 Crown Street, 216-238 Kiera Street and 86-90 Burelli Street, Wollongong

Archaeological Technical Report

LGA: Wollongong

Report to Wollongong Developments No.8 Pty Ltd

July 2025

artefact

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Archaeological Technical Report prepared by Artefact Heritage and Environment on behalf of Wollongong Developments No.8 Pty Ltd ('the Applicant') supports a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) for an Infill Affordable Housing Development, SSD-76440958, for the site at 221-291 Crown Street, 216-238 Keira Street and 86-90 Burelli Street, Wollongong (the site).

This report has been prepared to respond to the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARS) dated 8 October 2024 for SSD-76440958.

As part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) required by the SEARs, an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) must be prepared (Condition 18). This Aboriginal Survey Report (ASR) has been prepared in accordance with *The Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (2010) (here after Code of Practice) that requires a standalone archaeological report to accompany the ACHAR.

The aims of this report are to:

- Identify whether Aboriginal objects or places will be harmed by the proposal.
- Identify any recommended further investigations, mitigation and management measures required, in compliance the SEARs.

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database was conducted that resulted in no Aboriginal heritage sites; located within the study area. The sites outside of the study area were concentrated along the ocean foreshore and sand dune areas east of the study are. The closest AHIMS registered site is AHIMS ID 52-2-4498 and comprises an artefact site.

The study area is located within the Gwynneville soil landscape. Soils in this landscape are typically shallow and vulnerable to erosion. Therefore, the general soils landscape setting is not predicted to be conducive to long-term in situ Aboriginal site preservation, and lithic scatter sites might be expected to become dispersed over time. The area has also been subject to urban development over the historic period, and much development took place well before any requirement for consideration of Aboriginal Heritage impacts.

As a result, the mapped distribution of Aboriginal sites within the local area is heavily biased towards areas which have suffered less urban disturbance adjacent the foreshore and dunes to the east, and where surface visibility is much higher. It is the coastal margin on AHIMS mapping where a concentration of Aboriginal sites is located within Wollongong soil landscape. Proximity to sands and the ocean foreshore have also been identified as predictive landforms of the presence of Aboriginal sites. The study area is not located in proximity to these landforms of higher archaeological potential. Also, the long historical urbanised use of the study area will have caused significant ground disturbances. It is therefore assessed that there is low-no Aboriginal archaeological potential within the study area.

Based on the environmental background of the study area as well as archaeological investigations the following predictions are made:

- Most recorded Aboriginal sites in the area are located on the foreshore, possibly reflecting the greater survivability of archaeological evidence of exploitation of those areas, and the possible concentration of certain activities in those areas.
- The extensive amount of residential and industrial development would have impacted the survivability of archaeological contexts to some degree.

- Although the study area is close to the base of a slope which may have colluvial deposits. It is likely they would have been impacted to some extent by historical disturbance.

An archaeological survey was conducted to test the above predictive statements. No Aboriginal objects were identified during the survey. Observations during the survey indicated high levels of ground disturbance across the study area. However, one of the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) requested that an inspection of the ground be undertaken after removal of the existing concrete in the carpark (Figure 28) by a site officer from the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council or South Coast People registered native title group. This is to satisfy community concerns that no Aboriginal objects are present.

As a result of the background research and archaeological survey the following conclusions and recommendations have been made:

1.1 Summary

- The background research identified no registered AHIMS sites were located within the study area.
- The study area contained high levels of historical ground disturbance.
- No Aboriginal objects were identified during the survey.
- The assessment found the study area is unlikely to contain Aboriginal objects.
- A representative from the South Coast People registered Native Title group requested that an inspection of exposed ground be undertaken after removal of the existing concrete in the carpark by a site officer from the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council or South Coast People registered native title group. This is to satisfy community concerns that no Aboriginal objects are present within this area.

1.2 Recommendations

Based on the results of this assessment and in accordance with Aboriginal heritage guidelines mandated in the SEARs for the proposal, the following recommendations are made:

- An ACHAR is required to support the SSD conditions of approval.
- No further Aboriginal archaeological assessment or investigation is required, and the works may proceed with caution
- If additional areas are added to the existing study area, additional archaeological assessment would be required
- An unexpected finds policy outlining the protocols to be followed in the event that unexpected Aboriginal objects are encountered during the works must be prepared and presented to project personnel during site inductions.

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project brief

This Archaeological Technical report prepared by Artefact Heritage and Environment (Artefact) on behalf of Wollongong Developments No.8 Pty Ltd ('the Applicant') supports a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) for an Infill Affordable Housing Development, SSD-76440958, for the site at 221-291 Crown Street, 216-238 Keira Street and 86-90 Burelli Street, Wollongong (the site).

Specifically, consent is sought for the following development in this SSDA:

- Demolition of existing structures on the site, retention of heritage facades, tree removal and site excavation for new basement.
- Construction of a new mixed-use development consisting of:
    - Four residential towers, ranging from 16 to 38 storeys and comprising 546 apartments including:
        - Approx. 414 market apartments.
        - Approx. 132 affordable apartments.
        - Residential lobbies and podium.
        - Communal open space.
    - A 10-storey commercial office building, an 8-storey hotel comprising 166 rooms, and numerous retail tenancies (including a supermarket) consisting of:
        - 10,009 sqm of commercial GFA.
        - 8,793 sqm of hotel GFA.
        - 3,781 sqm of retail GFA.
        - 1,510 sqm of retail supermarket GFA.
- Car, motorcycle and bicycle parking for residents, workers and visitors across two basement levels, mezzanine, lower ground and levels 1 and 2 including:
    - 774 car parking spaces, including:
        - 547 residential spaces (including accessible spaces).
        - 49 residential visitor spaces.
        - 63 commercial/retail/residential visitor spaces.
        - 25 commercial/retail (staff) spaces.
        - 10 hotel (staff only) spaces.
        - 80 retail (supermarket) spaces.
    - Five (5) loading bays.
    - 320 bicycle parking spaces.
    - 47 motorcycle parking spaces.
- New public open space including a new public plaza.
- Associated landscaping and public domain works.

2.2 Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

This report has been prepared to respond to the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARS) dated 8 October 2024 for SSD-76440958. Specifically, this report has been prepared to respond to those SEARS summarised in Table 1

Table 1: SEARs requirements

Requirement	Response

18. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage • Provide an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) prepared in accordance with relevant guidelines, identifying, describing and assessing any impacts to any Aboriginal cultural heritage sites or values associated with the site.	This Archaeological Technical Report has been prepared in accordance with *The Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (2010) (here after Code of Practice) that requires a standalone archaeological report to accompany the ACHAR.

2.3 Description of the study area

The site is situated at 221-291 Crown Street, 216-238 Keira Street and 86-90 Burelli Street, Wollongong, within the Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA).

The site forms part of the Wollongong City Centre Precinct, as identified in the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 (WLEP). It is well located, being approximately 280m from Wollongong Train Station which provides services within Wollongong and to the Sydney CBD. It is adjacent to Wollongong Central shopping centre, a major regional retail hub. The site has ample access to public open space being less than 50m from MacCabe Park.

The site comprises a significant landholding of approximately 13,088m^2 with frontages to Crown Street, Keira Street, Burelli Street and Atchison Street. The site is owned by Wollongong Developments No.8 Pty Ltd

An aerial of the site is shown in Figure 1.

The site area and legal description is recorded in Table 2

Table 2. Site Description

Legal Description	Address
Lot 1 in DP 112417	216-222 Keira Street
Lot 100 in DP 774957	226-230 Keira Street
Lot 9 in DP 551157	232-234 Keira Street
Lot 8 in DP 546125	236-238 Keira Street
Lot 1 in DP 88455	86 Burelli Street
Lot 4 in DP 17979	
Lot 5 in DP 17979	
Lot B in DP 395330	90 Burelli Street
Lot 1 in DP 220513	221-229 Crown Street
Lot 3 in DP 17979	231 Crown Street
Lot 2 in DP 17979	233-235 Crown Street
Lot 1 in DP 17979	

Legal Description	Address
Lot 7 in DP 878243	237-241 Crown Street
Lot 1 in DP 1135333	243-251 Crown Street
Lot 1 in DP 226374	253-259 Crown Street
Lot 1 in DP 183348	
Lot 2 in DP 226374	
Lot 3 in DP 319452	261 Crown Street
Lot 2 in DP 319452	269-271 Crown Street
Lot 1 in DP 319452	
Lot 2 in DP 181570	273-279 Crown Street
Lot 1 in DP 1116034	
Lot 1 in DP 82673	281-291 Crown Street
Lot 1 in DP 117019	
Lot 1 in DP 927806	281-291 Burelli Street
Lot 1 in DP 1198873	
Lot 1 in DP 1087986	

2.4 Aims and objectives

This ASR has been prepared to support the EIS submission for the mixed-use development.

The aims of this report are to:

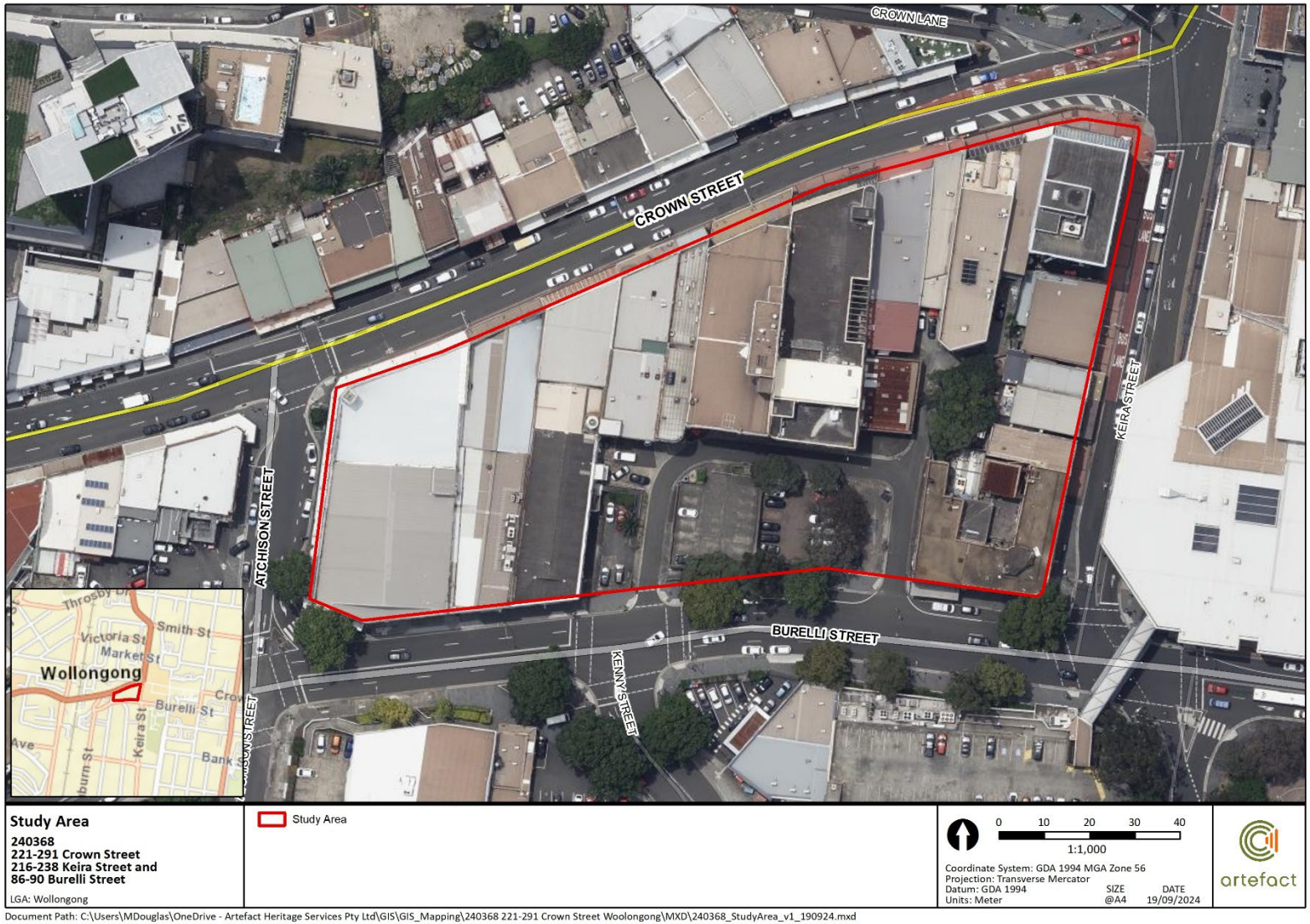
- Identify whether Aboriginal objects or places will be harmed by the proposal.
- Identify any recommended further investigations, mitigation and management measures required, in compliance of the SEARs.

To fulfil these aims, the report had the following objectives:

- Carry out an archaeological survey of the study area to investigate the existence of Aboriginal sites or area or archaeological potential.
- Conduct an archaeological significance assessment of any artefacts that may be identified.
- Conduct an impact assessment for recorded Aboriginal sites and areas of archaeological potential.
- Recommend further archaeological investigation and consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders where required, and provide measures to avoid, minimise and, if necessary, offset the predicted impacts to Aboriginal heritage values

.

Figure 1: Study area



2.5 Limitations and constraints

Background research completed to inform the development of this report was limited to existing and publicly accessible sources of information. The findings of archaeological assessments cited in the report were not independently verified except where inconsistencies within the documents were identifiable. Historical (non-Aboriginal) heritage has not been assessed as part of this study. The preparation of this report did not include assessment of intangible Aboriginal heritage values.

2.6 Authors and contributors

This report was prepared by Lily Hackett (Heritage Consultant, Artefact Heritage), Rebecca Bryant (Senior Heritage Consultant, Artefact Heritage), and Dr Stephen Gapps (Historian, Artefact Heritage). Management and review were provided by Ryan Taddeucci (Aboriginal Heritage Team Leader, Artefact Heritage), and Josh Symons (Technical Executive, Artefact Heritage). Mapping was provided by Mike Douglas (Geographic Information System Officer, Artefact Heritage). A summary of the authors, contributors and their role are provided in Table 3: below.

Table 3: Summary of authors and contributors.

Authors and Contributors	Qualifications	Experience	Tasks
Josh Symons (Technical Executive)	Bachelor of Arts (Hons), Prehistoric and Historical Archaeology	20+ years	• Quality control • Technical support
Ryan Taddeucci (Aboriginal Team Leader/Principle)	Bachelor of Arts (Honours - Archaeology) Master of Museum Studies Graduate Certificate (Maritime Archaeology)	11+ years	• Project management • Technical review
Rebecca Bryant (Senior Heritage Consultant)	Bachelor of Science (Archaeology and Palaeoanthropology) Master of Research (Lithics)	12+ years	• Project management • Site survey • Reporting
Lily Hackett (Heritage Consultant)	Bachelor of Arts (Archaeology and Ancient History) Master of Museum and Heritage Studies (current)	2 years	• Background research • Site survey
Mike Douglas (GIS Officer)	Bachelor of Arts North American Archaeology Master of Science Geology Master's Certificate in GIS Science	20+ years	• Preparation of mapping • GIS support
Dr Stephen Gapps (Historian)	Bachelor of Arts (Hons)., History Master of Applied History PhD History	20+ years	• Background Histories

3.0 PROJECT FRAMEWORK

3.1 Commonwealth legislation

3.1.1 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) provides a legal framework for the protection and management of Australia's unique environment, including biodiversity and culturally significant places. The EPBC Act also includes provisions to identify places for addition to the National Heritage List (NHL) and Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL) to enhance the protection, conservation and presentation of those places. A search of the NHL and CHL was completed on 4 October 2024. No listed heritage items were identified in the study area. One nominated Aboriginal heritage item within the NHL overlaps with the study area; Sydney Cultural Crescent Rock Art (Object ID: 144, Place ID: 106369), however this is yet to be determined.

3.1.2 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984

The Commonwealth *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* (ATSIHP Act), deals with Aboriginal cultural property (intangible heritage) in a wider sense. Such intangible heritage includes any places, objects and folklore that 'are of particular significance to Aboriginals in accordance with Aboriginal tradition'. These values are not currently protected under the NPW Act.

There is no cut-off date and the ATSIHP Act may apply to contemporary Aboriginal cultural property as well as ancient sites. The ATSIHP Act takes precedence over state cultural heritage legislation where there is conflict. The Commonwealth Minister who is responsible for administering the ATSIHP Act can make declarations to protect these areas and objects from specific threats of injury or desecration. The responsible Minister may make a declaration under Section 10 of the Commonwealth Act in situations where state or territory laws do not provide adequate protection of intangible heritage.

Where an Aboriginal individual or organisation is concerned that intangible values within the proposal are not being adequately protected, they can apply to the Minister for a declaration over a place. A search of the federal gazette was undertaken for declarations under the ATSIHP Act on 4 October 2024. This search resulted in no declared Aboriginal sites under the ATSIHP ACT identified within the study area.

3.1.3 Native Title Act 1993

The main purpose of the *Native Title Act 1993* is to recognise and protect native title. Native title is the rights and interests in land and waters that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have under their traditional laws and customs.

The following list is indicative of the type of land, which might be subject to native title:

- vacant Crown land and any other public or Crown lands including oceans and inland waterways, beaches and foreshores, State forests, national parks and public reserves
- pastoral leases
- land held by government agencies
- land held in trust for Aboriginal communities.

Under the amended *Native Title Act 1993*, Native Title is extinguished by the following:

- private freehold land, valid grants of private freehold land or waters
- residential, commercial or exclusive possession leases
- mining dissection leases
- community purpose leases (e.g. religious, sporting or charitable purposes)
- scheduled interests that give exclusive possession
- public works (e.g. schools, public amenities, hospitals etc.).

Section 24KA of the *Native Title Act 1993*, requires that native title claimants are notified of any 'future act' which may result in a change in land use for Crown lands affected by claims. A 'future act' is defined in section 233 of the Act as a proposed activity or development on land and/or waters that may affect native title, by extinguishing (removing) it or creating interests that are inconsistent with the existence or exercise of native title. If, after one month, there were no response to the notification, then the proponent will be deemed to have fulfilled their obligations under the Act.

Proponents are not required to comply with the requirements of steps 4.1.2 to 4.1.7 of the Consultation Requirements where there is an approved determination of native title that native title exists in relation to the entire study area. In this circumstance, proponents need only consult with the native title holders. However, steps 4.1.2 to 4.1.7 are appliable for any portion of the study area not covered by a native title determination.

A search of the National Native Title Register was completed on 4 October 2024 and identified a registered Native Title by the South Coast People (Federal Court No. NSD1331/2017). However, this claim has not yet been determined. No determined Native Title claims exist over the study area.

3.2 State legislation

3.2.1 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act), administered by Heritage NSW provides statutory protection for all Aboriginal 'objects' (consisting of any material evidence of the Aboriginal occupation of NSW), and for 'Aboriginal Places' (areas of cultural significance to the Aboriginal community).

The protection provided to Aboriginal objects applies irrespective of the level of their significance or issues of land tenure. However, areas are only gazetted as Aboriginal places if the Minister is satisfied that sufficient evidence exists to demonstrate that the location was and/or is of special significance to Aboriginal culture.

There are no gazetted Aboriginal places in the study area. All Aboriginal objects, whether recorded or not, are protected under the NPW Act.

Section 86 of the NPW Act identifies that it is an offence to harm or desecrate an Aboriginal object and/or an Aboriginal place. Section 86 outlines penalty units applicable where it is identified that a person or corporation is in breach of Section 86.

The NPW Act defines harm to an object or place as any act or omission that:

(a) destroys, defaces or damages the object or place, or

(b) in relation to an object moves the object from the land on which it had been situated, or

(c) is specified by the regulations, or

(d) causes or permits the object or place to be harmed in a manner referred to in paragraph (a), (b) or (c)

A section 90 permit is the only Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) available under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and is granted by Heritage NSW. Various factors are considered by Heritage NSW in the AHIP application process, such as site significance, Aboriginal consultation requirements, Ecological Sustainable Development (ESD) principles, project justification and consideration of alternatives. The penalties and fines for damaging or defacing an Aboriginal object were increased in 2010.

As this project is being assessed under Part 4 Division 4.1 of the EP&A Act, permits issued under the NPW Act are not required for impacts approved under the SSD provisions. Impacts to Aboriginal objects will be authorised by the Conditions of Approval for the project issued under the EP&A Act.

3.2.2 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The EP&A Act establishes the framework for cultural heritage values to be formally assessed in the land use planning, development assessment and environmental impact assessment processes. Part 3, Division 3.4 deals with the development of Local Environmental Plans (LEPs). Planning decisions within Local Government Areas (LGAs) are guided by LEPs. Each LGA is required to develop and maintain an LEP that includes Aboriginal and historical heritage items which are protected under the *EP&A Act* and in some cases also protected under the *Heritage Act 1977*. The study area is located within the boundaries of the Wollongong LGA and is covered by the Wollongong LEP 2009 (2010 EPI 76). Aboriginal Heritage is managed under section 5.10 Heritage Conservation.

One locally significant LEP item is located within the study area (6474). The former Marcus Clark Building' is locally significant as being representative of a federation commercial building in Wollongong and commercial history of the area (State Heritage Inventory 6474). However, there are no Aboriginal heritage values associated with this item.

The proposal will be assessed under Part 4, Division 4.1 of the EP&A Act, which establishes an assessment and approval regime for SSD. Part 4, Division 4.1 applies to development that is declared to be an SSD by a State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP). Section 4.41 (previously section 89J(c)) of the EP&A Act specifies that approvals or permits under section 90 of the NPW Act 1974 are not required for approved SSD.

3.2.3 NSW Native Title Act 1994

The *Native Title Act 1994* was introduced to ensure that the laws of NSW are consistent with the Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993*. Native Title claims, registers and Indigenous Land Use Agreements are administered under the Act (see section 3.1.3).

3.2.4 Aboriginal Lands Right Act 1983

The *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (ALR Act) established Aboriginal Land Councils (at State and Local levels). These bodies have a statutory obligation under the ALR Act to:

> *(a) take action to protect the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons in the council's area, subject to any other law, and*

(b) promote awareness in the community of the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons in the council's area.

The study area is within the boundary of the Illawarra LALC.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

4.1 AHIMS search

NOTE: The location of Aboriginal sites is considered culturally sensitive information. It is advised that this information, including the AHIMS data appearing on mapping below must be removed from this report if it is to enter the public domain.

An extensive search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) was undertaken on 4 October 2024 (Client Service ID: 936813) to determine the location of Aboriginal sites in relation to the study area. The search area was defined as 4km x 3.5km of land surrounding the study area to inform the characterisation of the local archaeological context. The AHIMS search parameters were as follows:

GDA, Zone 56	E: 304310.0-307797.0 N: 6186642.0-6190642.0
Buffer	0 metres (m)
Number of sites	17

There is a total of 17 AHIMS registered site located within the extensive search area (Figure 2). No registered AHIMS sites are registered within the study area. The closest AHIMS registered site is AHIMS ID 52-2-4498 and comprises an artefact site (see section 4.1.1) (Figure 3). Artefact and shell middens sites are the most common site type within the extensive search area (n=6, 35.3%). A summary of the site types within the extensive search are illustrated in Figure 2 and summarised in Table 4 below.

Previous investigations of Aboriginal archaeology in NSW have resulted in Aboriginal sites located more frequently near areas of permanent water sources as well as within or adjacent to sand dune systems (Attenbrow 2010). This is reflected in the AHIMS search results where the majority of the registered sites are concentrated along the eastern foreshore of Cove Beach and Wollongong North Beach, northeast of the study area. The registered sites largely comprise shell midden and artefact sites.. This concentration of sites is also located within the marine Wollongong soil landscape characterised by deep (>200mm) sands comprising of beaches, foredunes and swales (eSPADE 2024). Beach sands can result in good preservation of buried objects, particularly organic materials like molluscan shells and bone (Attenbrow 2012). Aboriginal burials are also often located within sand dune systems (Heritage Victoria 2008) which is consistent with the two Aboriginal burials located within the Wollongong coastal sands and in areas of minimal urban development. Areas within those sands may have potential for other burials to be present.

In comparison, only two AHIMS registered sites are located further inland from the ocean foreshore. AHIMS ID 52-2-4498 is an isolated stone artefact which was found approximately 437 m southeast of the study area and is discussed in further detail in Section 4.1.1. AHIMS ID 52-2-4878, is a grinding groove and stone arrangement which is located near significant water courses approximately 1. 2 km to the northwest of the study area and close to creeks. The paucity of sites that have been identified within the inland landscape compared to the coastal is likely due to the residual nature of the Gwynneville soil landscape. This soil landscape is mapped as shallow soils susceptible to erosion and flooding (see section 5.1). The fragile nature of the soil landscape in combination with the high levels of historical development and subsequent ground disturbance (see section 5.5) west of the foreshore has likely impacted or destroyed the thin layer of soil that may have once contained Aboriginal archaeological deposits. This has most likely resulted in fewer AHIMS registered sites being identified in these areas. Additionally, certain site types, such as culturally modified trees, are particularly vulnerable to destruction through historical activities. Due to the largescale removal of

native vegetation in the area, any culturally modified trees have likely been removed. Therefore, no culturally modified trees have been registered within the extensive search area.

Table 4: Summary of AHIMS results.

Site Types	Frequency	Percentage
Artefact and shell midden	6	35.3
Artefact	2	11.8
Potential Archaeological Deposit	2	11.8
Habitation structure and Potential Archaeological Deposit	1	5.9
Grinding groove	1	5.9
Grinding groove and stone arrangement	1	5.9
Artefact and Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD)	1	5.9
Artefact and burial	2	11.8
Shell midden	1	5.9
Total	**17**	**100%**

4.1.1 AHIMS ID 52-2-4498

AHIMS ID 52-2-4498 is located approximately 437 m southeast of the study area (Figure 3). The site comprises an isolated proximal petrified wood flake fragment with evidence of platform preparation. The site card states 'The artefact was discovered in an area that had previously been cleared by an excavating machine as part of the monitoring and historical excavations within the study area. It was located in a highly disturbed context and was situated on a sterile, natural clay layer'. The site remains valid within the AHIMS database.

Figure 2: AHIMS extensive search results

Document Path: C:\Users\MDouglas\OneDrive - Artefact Heritage Services Pty Ltd\GIS\GIS_Mapping\240368 221-291 Crown Street Woolongong\MXD\240368_AHIMSextensive_v1_081024.mxd

Figure 3:AHIMS detail

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4.2 Public AHIP register search

A review of the publicly accessible AHIP dataset conducted on 4 October 2024 revealed no active AHIPs overlapping with the study area.

4.3 Review of existing archaeological literature

The regional NSW archaeological record indicates that the area has been inhabited and systematically exploited through varying periods of climatic change, including during the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM). Significantly, the earliest evidence of Aboriginal inhabitation along the south coast dates from 21,000 BP, identified in the Burrill Lake rock shelter approximately 110km south of the study area (Cros 1984; Lampert 1971). Aboriginal sites that have been dated in closer proximity to the study area typically date to the mid-late Holocene.

This regional area of the south coast has seen increasing archaeological and cultural heritage studies conducted in the last 30 years. The post-colonial histories of Aboriginal people in the Wollongong and Illawarra area are also well documented. However, the previous archaeological investigations within the local area surrounding the study area are somewhat limited in comparison to Sydney. The long history of historical development and occupation in Wollongong have greatly impacted the preservation of Aboriginal objects. Therefore, the previous archaeological investigations are largely confined to coastal foreshore areas where the least amount of historical ground disturbance has occurred, and where there is much higher ground surface visibility. This situation largely explains the higher observed frequency of Aboriginal objects and sites on the shoreline and an apparent absence of sites inland of the coast. There is a further bias as most previous sub-surface testing is geographically restricted to excavation in the local area along the beach sands and dunes where shell middens, artefacts and Aboriginal burials are common. The minimal number of registered AHIMS sites in the inland areas of Wollongong is thus a likely reflection of the historical developments and subsequent impacts, and the restricted nature of surface ground and subsurface testing within the historically urbanised areas.

A summary of the previous archaeological investigations is summarised in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Summary of previous archaeological literature.

Archaeological literature	Summary
Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologist. 2002. Archaeological Test Excavations of NPWS site #52-2-2189 at the former lagoon restaurant, Stuart Park, North Wollongong, NSW, report to Emibarb Pty Ltd.	Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeology completed test excavations of an area located approximately 1.60km north of the study area within 50-60m of Fairy Creek and Puckeys Lagoon The area around the lagoon was formed on Quaternary sands with gravels that contained materials suitable for tool manufacture (e.g. mudstone, chert and quartzite). An earlier assessment (Sefton 2001) identified a small amount of shell that was later recorded as shell midden (AHIMS 52-2-2189) and a single isolated stone artefact. Test excavations comprised a total of 3 trenches measuring 2m x 3m in length. One trench was extended to 4m x 3m. Low numbers of shellfish and stone lithics were encountered however all trenches contained historical disturbance and mixing indicated by European building material such as brick, concrete and metal. None of the shell showed signs of burning or cultural modification. A total of 117 artefacts were recovered including one surface find (a hammerstone). They comprised chert,

Archaeological literature	Summary
	chalcedony, silcrete, quartz and one manuport of weathered find-grained sedimentary rock that may have been chert. Digging ceased once bedrock beach cobbles were encountered. The 'moderately rich stone artefact assemblage' was assessed as highly representative of larger artefact sites within the region however the site was also assessed to contained low research potential due to the fragmented nature of many of the lithics recovered. No material was identified suitable for radiocarbon dating. The age of the site was determined from the vertical distribution of backed artefacts, a stone technology commonly found between 4000-1000 BP. These findings were consistent with surrounding artefact and midden sites along the dune foreshore. Therefore, this landscape context contains the most potential for Aboriginal sites to be located.
Biosis. 2018. Civic Place, Wollongong: Archaeological report, prepared for Piruse Constructions.	Biosis prepared an ACHAR for 47 Burelli Street, Wollongong located approximately 425m east of the study area. The investigation area was also situated within Gwynneville Soil Landscape and had a long history of historical occupation. It was assessed that any Aboriginal material would be considered highly disturbed. Due to the similar landform context to the study area, the assessment of 47 Burelli Street investigation may also be applied to the study area of this report. A section 140 approval (*Heritage Act 1977*) was received on 6 June 2018 and historical archaeological excavations were undertaken. During historical excavations one Aboriginal artefact was identified (proximal petrified wood flake fragment (AHIMS ID 52-2-4498) in a highly disturbed area and was likely not in situ and therefore of low archaeological and cultural significance. The artefact was recommended to be collected under an AHIP prior to the proposed works.
Biosis.2021. North Beach Seawall, Test Excavation Report, report prepared for Wollongong City Council.	Biosis undertook test excavations in 2021 for proposed upgrades to the North Beach Seawall approximately 1.30km northeast of the study area. A previous ACHAR identified an area of PAD (AHIMS 52-2-4615/North Beach PAD 1) for potential Aboriginal burials and midden due to being located in the sand dunes of the ocean foreshore. Test excavations didn't identify any Aboriginal sites. The excavated material was heavily disturbed with a mix of sand and fill excavated at the lowest depth of 1.42m. No stone artefacts were encountered. A mix of European objects and one coral rich sand context extending from 1.42 m were also identified. One small shell fragment was recovered from one pit but was likely natural. The results of the investigation were consistent with other beach and sand contexts along the Illawarra coast where sand dunes were legally exploited for sand mining up until the early 1970s which has greatly impacted the presence of Aboriginal sites along the coast in the region.

Archaeological literature	Summary
Artefact Heritage, 2022.Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report Wollongong Private Hospital Extension, report to Erilyan.	Artefact prepared an ACHAR for Wollongong Private Hospital located approximately 950m west of the study area. The desktop background research and survey identified no registered AHIMS sites within that study area. No cultural heritage values were identified in association with the investigation area. That study area was assessed as being heavily disturbed from historical ground activities and development, and no further archaeological investigations were recommended. The hospital was also located within the Gwynneville soil and contained similar levels of long-term historical ground disturbance to that study area of this report. Therefore, that study area likely also contains low-nil potential for Aboriginal archaeological deposits.
Austral Archaeology. 2024. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advice for 131-135 Crown Street, Wollongong. Report to TQM Design & Construct.	Austral Archaeology was commissioned by TQM Design & Construct to provide Aboriginal cultural heritage advice for the proposed SSD development at 131-135 Crown Street, Wollongong. This is located approximately 205m east of the study area. The investigation area comprises the same soil, landform context and high levels of historical disturbance as the study area. It was assessed in situ Aboriginal objects would be unlikely to be present.

4.4 Ethnohistory

Wollongong lies within the Dharawal language group area. Dharawal language speakers lived and continue to live on their Country from Gamay (Kamay-Botany Bay) in the north, through Campbelltown and Moss Vale to the west, and south to the Shoalhaven River and Jervis Bay. The traditional Country of the Dharawal language speaking Wodi Wodi (or Wadi Wadi) has been identified as extending from north of the Shoalhaven River at Nowra to Wollongong and inland to Moss Vale. The Wodi Wodi have been called the 'people of the Illawarra' (Weeson 2005:5; Norman and Tindale 1974; Attenbrow 2010).

People did not usually identify themselves by the name of the language they spoke (they often spoke several languages) but by the clan group within which they lived. According to Dharawal historian Les Bursil, the 'Camayragal, Dhargarigal, Gweagal, Goonamattagal, Goorungurragal, Murro-ore-dial, Noron-Geragal, Oaree, Ory-ang-ora, Tagarigal, Threawal, Wandeandegal and Wodi Wodi clans spoke Dharawal as their first language (Brusill 2015:2).'

Dharawal stories say 'people were always here, from the beginning'. Archaeological evidence has found people living in the Illawarra from at least 20,000 years ago, during the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) at a time of ancient megafauna, such as the diprotodon. The coastline at Stanwell Park was around 15-20kms further east and under coastal waters today lies further evidence of their long history (see Gale 2023 for regional context). A creation story tells of the sea covering land that was once dry, with the Five Islands north of Bass Point joined by land to Hill 60 at Port Kembla – a story told down hundreds of generations (Bursill et al 2015: 2).

Dharawal people moved around defined areas according to the seasons and the availability of resources in a complex socially interactive economy, as known from ethnohistorical sources. The Wodi Wodi, suggested by Dharwal historian Les Bursil to be about 250 people, who lived from Lake Illawarra down to the Shoalhaven River. They remained on the coast during the warm seasons, taking advantage of the abundant marine resources (Figure 5). Lake Illawarra was an excellent source of food and resources throughout the year. According to Yuin Elder, Guboo Ted Thomas,

The Lake is a livelihood. That's where the tribes would come from south and north and everywhere. They can stay here for two or three days. Plenty of mussels, bimballas, oysters, fish and everything. They can have a couple of days here and then move on. Tucker was always plentiful (Thomas in Bursill et al 2015) .

They also moved beyond these local areas and were known to have travel, trade and ceremonial connections with neighbouring Dhurga, Yuin, Gundangurra and Darug people, and further afield with Awabakal and Wiradjuri people along the coast to the north and west inland. Stone from Bombo was known to have been traded long distances. Longer journeys were usually travelled along a songline or storyline, a pathway journeyed by a creative spirit while bringing the Country into existence. Particular favoured travel routes were coastal, running north south. Some were east-west and others inland. One path ran 150kms from Jervis Bay via Nowra through Kangaroo Valley, Wilde's Meadow and Robertson to Appin, a five-day journey. Gandangarra and Wiradjuri people travelled onto Dharawal Country on the coast to exchange foods, raw materials and artefacts. The fish, oysters, waterfowl and grubs of the Illawarra were particularly valued by inland people. These favoured travel routes, and the associated movement of artefacts are likely to be represented archaeologically in the present-day by site types such as middens, scatters and isolated artefacts (Thomas in Bursill et al 2015).

The landscape along the Wodi Wodi (and broader Dharawal) coast was richly worked with culture, art and industry. Charcoal and ochre paintings and drawings and rock engravings of spirits, animals, fish, birds, humans, tracks and symbols are common in the rock shelters around the Illawarra (Thomas on Bursill et al 2015).

Swamp wallabies, possums and other macropods were eaten, and their bones and skin used in the manufacture of cloaks, rugs, artefacts and ornaments. The cloaks were worn fur side out in the rain and skin out in dry, cold weather. The skins were pegged out on the ground for curing and finished with decorative markings stained and etched into the suede using a sharp bone or shell. Skins were sewn together with animal sinews through holes pierced by bone awls. As one early colonist on the south coast described a Dharawal possum-skin cloak, 'an oppossum cloak, the flesh side out, of one uniform grey colour; the skins were in squares, beautifully sewn together, and ornamented with delicate red lines and dots arranged in geometrical regularity' (Wesson 2005: *Murni Dhungang Jirrar* 2006: 103; Taylor 1863).

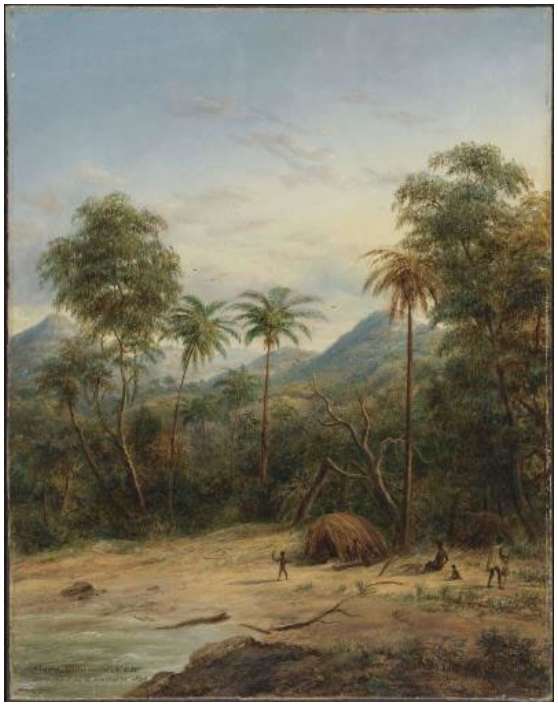
The forests and grasslands were carefully maintained for the duration of the continuing application of at least four different fire regimes (Figure 4). 'Cool' fires were used in September and October, but hot fires from January to March to open hard seeds and pods and to germinate legumes. Skilful and controlled fires kept the forests dense, the woodlands open, the grass copious and the game convenient (Bursill et al 2015; Donaldson, Bursill and Jacobs 2017: 17).

Dharawal people could communicate by smoke signals for long distance. Variants in the smoke (colour, density, height and duration) communicated different meanings. In1770 when James Cook and his crew in the HMB *Endeavour* sailed north along the Yuin and Dharawal coastline, they saw smoke from fires all along the shore as people communicated the ship's presence along the coast (Organ 1990; 213).

Plants were more than just staple foods – they could also be indicators for hunting. The Bangalow Palm for example, has leaves that can be used to make water carriers, baskets and thatching for shelter, and its presence is an indicator for swamp wallabies, bushrats and bandicoots (Wesson 2005; *Murni Dhungang Jirrar* 2006: 69).

Figure 4: 'Storm above Red Point and the Five Islands, Illawarra, with Aborigines in the foreground'. (Source: Edward Charles Close - New South Wales Sketchbook: Sea Voyage, Sydney, Illawarra, Newcastle, Morpeth, c. 1817-1840, State Library of New South Wales).

Figure 5: Kiama featuring red cedar forests, c.1860 (Source: Kiama Library).



4.5 Historic records of Aboriginal material cultural

It is not clear from archaeological evidence, or palaeoecological and past climate reconstructions, how far the ethnohistorical observed patterns of Aboriginal use and activity in late Holocene

landscapes across Australia can be projected as a model back in time. Clearly very different patterns were disrupted by rising post glacial sea levels after the LGM. There is also much debate as to the reality of patterns of increasing archaeological site number/past human population through the Holocene (including models for intensification), ideas of changing use of resource environments and what may be forcing factors (eg aridity phases, competition for resources after arrival of dingo) (see review by Hiscock and Sterelny 2023). What is certain is that the reliability of predictive models based on late Holocene data decrease back in time, not least because archaeological sites decay and degrade over geological time (Hiscock and Sterelny 2023: 1-3) with the result that Pleistocene sites are few, scattered and rarely densely filled with cultural materials, whereas late Holocene sites are much more numerous, and often rich in food debris and have many more artefacts.

There are, therefore, risks (and predictive limits) in using land use patterns adopted by Aboriginal people and observable to the last 1000 years, as predictions for site locations/type (or absence patterns) further back in time. However, for the last several hundred to a few thousand years the ethnographic picture is helpful.

There were once vast middens along the coastline, but many were later destroyed to make lime for brick mortar in building. It has been proposed that in the colder seasons people moved away from the coast to the many rock shelters in the deep valleys of the escarpment and further inland. Here they subsisted on fish, eels and yabbies and the men would join women in collecting plant foods (Thomas in Bursill et al 2015).

Dharawal peoples had a vast array of possessions, tools, clothing and weapons. Artefacts such as spears (karmai), woomeras (womra), boomerangs (bumarin), shields (hilamin), canoes (maduri) were made from timbers, gums and resins. Nuts, feathers, teeth, ochres, animal skins and plant fibres were used to create decorative clothing, cloaks and both every day and ceremonial ornamentation. Leaves, bark and stems were used to make baskets, string, rope, nets and toys. Bark, stems and leaf fronds made short-term shelter structures. Although artefacts made of organic materials are inherently susceptible to degradation, these materials may, in some circumstances, still be preserved today in moist, anaerobic depositional environments (Wesson 2005: *Murni Dhungang Jirrar* 2006: 12-13).

Ceremonial areas are marked by certain trees which may be carved with significant designs to define the area. Trees were also marked to indicate a burial using both symbols and drawings. During gatherings trees were marked to define the temporary home areas for a visiting group. The survival of culturally modified trees today however is directly related to disturbance and land clearing.

4.5.1 Post-colonisation

Apart from the odd group of shipwreck survivors and early navigators such as Bass and Flinders in the 1790s, there was no permanent European settlement impacting directly on the lives of the Aboriginal people of the present-day Illawara until the 1810s. The impact at first was deadly diseases. The 1789 smallpox outbreak in Sydney and then later outbreaks up to the 1830s had a terrible impact on the people of the Illawarra, as they did elsewhere. Perhaps two thirds of the Dharawal people died from disease in those years (Bursill et al 2015: 7).

From the late 1790s, whaling and sealing voyagers stopped along the Dharawal coast and conflict commenced. When timber getters arrived in the 1810s, it escalated. As Les Bursil writes;

> *According to Burriel Paddy of Ulladulla who died in 1860 aged 80, he and other men of his clan slaughtered a crew shipwrecked on Ulladulla headland in the 1820s. Around that time, at Black Head, 10 kilometres north of the Shoalhaven River, Arawarra organized and led an attack that destroyed a party of cedar*

cutters. He was captured and Alexander Berry sent his head to the Edinburgh Museum in 1827 for scientific research (Bursill et al 2015: 8).

In 1818 there were reports of a massacre of Dharawal near Kiama, led by Lieutenant Weston, a land owner at Dapto. There was growing resistance by Dharawal people. Although resistance against colonisation continued to the south, the Wodi Wodi, now well outnumbered by Europeans and the cattle and sheep, were merely attempting to survive the onslaught (Bursill et al 2015; (Donaldson, Bursill and Jacobs 2017: 14-16).

During the 1800s European settlement destroyed more and more traditional food gathering areas across the Illawarra. People were no longer able to live around the Wollongong township. Dharawal people retreated to small creeks and along the shores of water bodies such as Lake Illawarra or Tom Thumb Lagoon that still offered traditional food sources. They also moved to land less favoured for cultivation or timber getting such as steeper and more heavily vegetated land along the escarpment. An Aboriginal fishing community grew at Berkeley on Lake Illawarra in the 1860s and people continued to live on the shore of Tom Thumb Lagoon until 1928 when they were forcibly moved for the construction of Port Kembla harbour.

Aboriginal people across the Illawarra moved around in a network of connections with people, for seasonal work, often returning to family at informal camps such as at Hill 60 near Port Kembla. Strong links were forged with the La Perouse Aboriginal community on the southern shore of Kamay-Botany Bay in Sydney. These movement patterns allowed Illawarra Aboriginals to survive and escape the Aborigines Protection Board control but also created bonds, often by intermarriage with groups at La Perouse, the Burragorang Valley, Wallaga Lake and elsewhere. Continuing into the twentieth century and up to the present day, these were valuable links when Aboriginal activism became more overt from the 1930s onwards. The traditional importance of Sandon Point, Coomaditchy Lagoon and Hill 60 was continued by regular family gatherings and occupation into the twentieth century. Thus, these sites have direct links to many Aboriginal people living today up and down the NSW coast (Goodall and Cadzow 2009: 87-8, 110).

Today, Dharawal language speakers continue to live in their Country from Kamay-Botany Bay in the north, through Campbelltown and Moss Vale to the west, and south to the Shoalhaven River and Jervis Bay. Dharawal Language is being revitalised by initiatives like the publication of the *D'harawal Language* compiled by Gavin Andrews, Frances Bodkin and Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews. Many animals and birds feature in traditional stories for the Illawarra such as Mulgani the wallaby and several stories that feature the waratah plant. These stories are still being used to teach principles and history by Dharawal people today (Wesson, quoting Mason (2001) 2005: 7; Peck 1933; *Australian Legends*: 108-21, 202-3, 208-214).

4.6 Conclusion and summary

The Aboriginal historic and archaeological record indicates that Aboriginal people were active throughout the local area for thousands of years. However historic disturbance associated with urban construction and development has had a significant impact on the survival of Aboriginal sites in the built-up Wollongong area. The majority of surviving sites have been located further east along the foreshore and commonly associated with dunes and sand deposits. They have mainly comprised shell middens and stone artefact. A comparatively smaller number of Aboriginal sites have been identified further inland, This is likely attributed to the above mentioned significant disturbance associated with development outside of the ocean foreshore.

5.0 LANDSCAPE CONTEXT

5.1 Soils

The study area is located within the Gwynneville soil landscape (Figure 6). These soils are typically shallow (50 – 100 cm) Brown Podzolic Soils (Db1.11, Db3.11) on upper slopes, Lithosols (Um1.43, Uc1.23) on simple slopes and shallow (<50 cm) Brown Earths (Uf6.13) on mid-slopes and lower slopes (ePSADE 2024). Gwynneville 1 (Gw1) consists of a friable brown sandy loam, Gwynneville 2 (Gw2) is a friable sandy clay loam and Gwynneville 3 (Gw3) is a brown apedal clay (ePSADE 2024). This soil landscape is characterised by erosion, mass soil movement and local flooding. Subsoils are reactive and impermeable, with low wet bearing strength clay subsoils (ePSADE 2024). The shallow and fragile nature of the soils, and the significant historical development within the study area and surrounding land, have likely removed and redeposited the residuals soils and any potential artefacts within those soils. Therefore, potential for Aboriginal sites to be present within the study area is generally low.

The study area is marginal to wide valley floor at <10m AHD. Eastward drainage is now largely blocked at the coast by a pocket beach and sand dunes. The study area is on a lower slope base and floodplain valley margin. The possibility exists that accumulation of colluvial deposits may have occurred at this location during the Holocene, especially once the sand barrier-dune accreted, blocking the palaeo-valley mouth to the east after 6000 BP and probably causing some alluvial aggradation in the valley floor.

5.2 Geology

Wollongong plain is comprised of three geomorphic zones, the coastal plain, escarpment and the plateau which reaches from Austinmer and Dapto to the lower portion of the Illawarra Escarpment between Coledale and Bong Bong Pass (Kass 2010: 8). The study area is situated within the coastal plain.

The underlying geology at the study area is predicted to be resistant inter bedded quartz lithic sandstone, grey siltstone and mudstone/claystone, carbonaceous claystone, clay and laminate (Shoalhaven Group). These units underlie the Illawarra Coal Measures (Late Permian age) (GHD Geotechnics 2010: 16; ePSADE 2024). Mangerton Hill, approximately 1.60km southwest of the study area is an outcrop of tuffaceous Budgong Sandstone (Kass 2010: 8). The concentration of sandstone outcrops more commonly located along the escarpment cliffs, crest in the landscape and foreshore areas is reflective of the underlying geology. As such, Aboriginal sites associated with rock outcrops (shelters, grinding grooves or engravings) are more likely to be located in those areas.

5.3 Topography

The characteristic landform of the area comprises undulating to steep hills (local relief 10 – 70 m, slope gradients 3 - 25%) (ePSADE 2024). Landform elements include broad to moderate ridges (250 – 800 m), steeply inclined to moderately inclined foot slopes, and isolated rises on the coastal plain (ePSADE 2024). The Illawarra escarpment, east of the study area consists of slopes with moderate to steep localised structural benches up to 80 m wide (GHD Geotechnics 2010: 16; ePSADE 2024).

The study area itself is located across the slope base and valley floor margin at between c. 15m and 25m AHD (see Figure 7). It borders a low gradient undulating valley floor and coastal plain at an elevation mostly below 10m AHD to the south, running east to the coast (Figure 7). The local high point to the north is part of a larger ridge line which runs west-east. The lower edges of that broader

landform probably mark the residual coastal upland - coastal plain margin from older (pre-Holocene) high shorelines (Figure 7).

5.4 Hydrology

Sea level stabilized at about +1.0 -+ 1.5m relative to Present Mean Sea Level (PMSL) on the NSW coast around 7000 years BP. They remained higher than present and then fell slightly after 2000 BP to their present level (Lewis et al 2008). During the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) around 21,000 years ago, the study area will have been an upper tributary valley draining into stream networks which crossed the exposed shelf down to a shoreline at about -120m, on what is now the continental shelf. The broad patterns of submergence of the glacial stage hydrology on the shelf by rising sea levels is now established for the NSW coast off Sydney (see Albani et al 2015; Gale 2023).

When the sea level stabilised after the LGM to about +1 to 1.5m above PMSL (Lewis et al 2008), the various coastal lagoons and lakes within Wollongong began to form as embayment's, and then infill, such as Lake Illawarra and Fairy Creek south of the study area. It is likely these areas were used for subsistence gathering and camping by Aboriginal people of the Illawarra (Kass 2010:11). Hydrology mapping indicates the closest major waterway to the study area is the Gurungatay waterway, which is approximately 770 m southeast of the study area. The catchment has been heavily modified from its natural flow from land reclamation and urban development. Based on the previous archaeological investigations (section 4.3) and the AHIMS extensive search (section 4.1) Aboriginal sites are more frequently located adjacent to foreshore areas and waterways adjacent sand dunes. Therefore, based on that background information, due to the study area's distance away from these waterways, it is less likely Aboriginal sites will be present within the study area.

Figure 6: Soil landscape

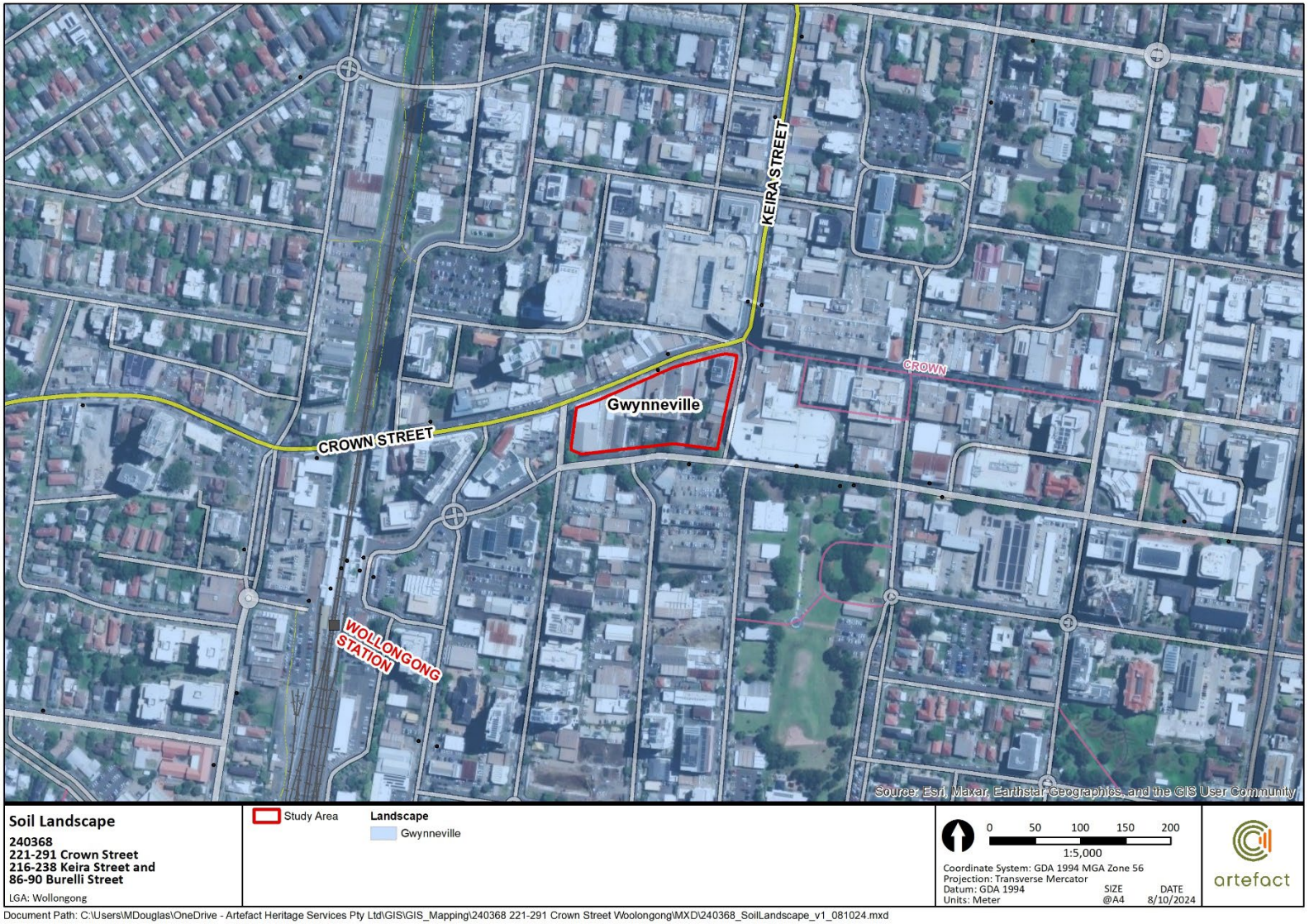
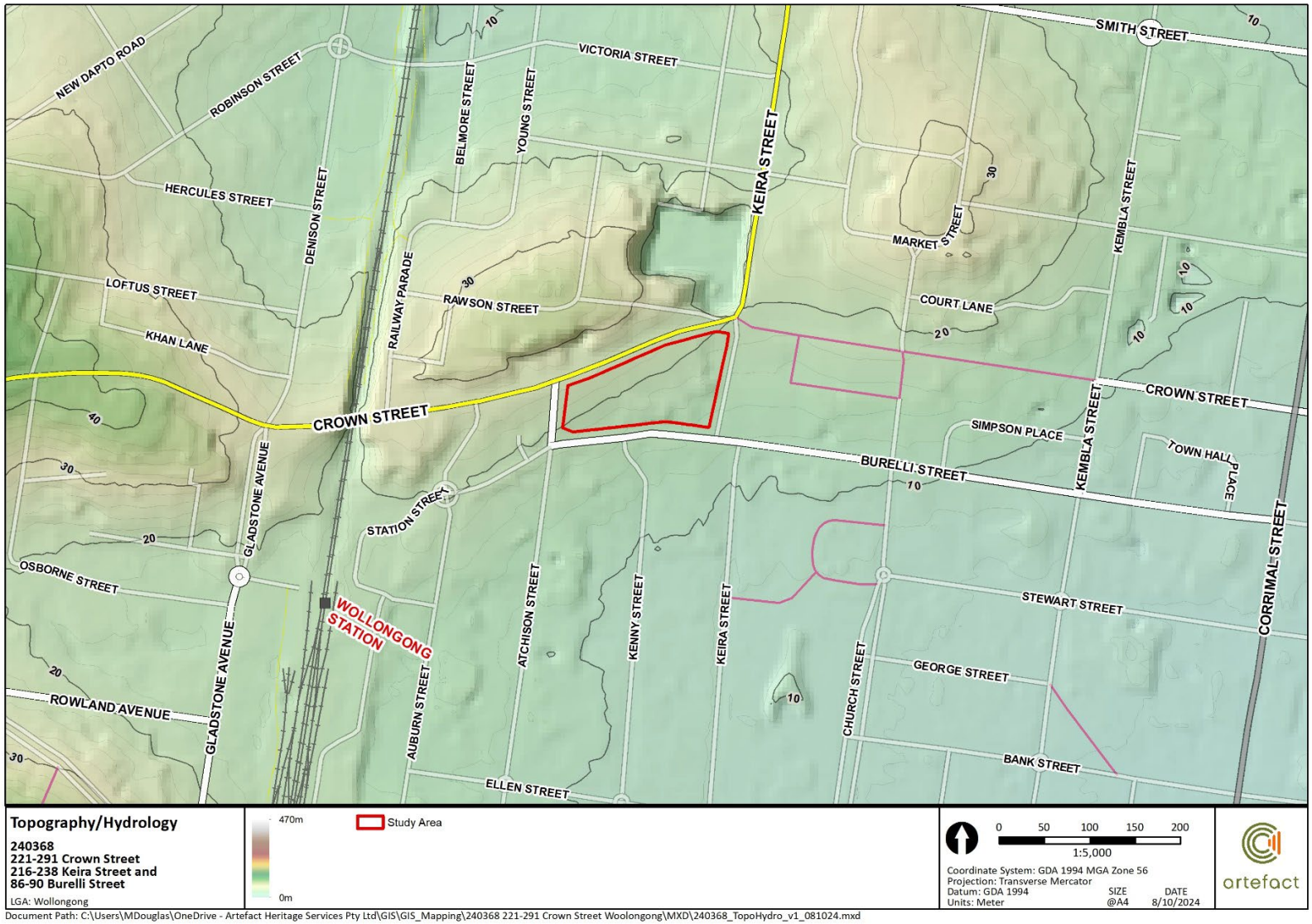


Figure 7: Topography and hydrology surrounding the study area



5.5 Historic land disturbance

Ground disturbances and historical development can significantly impact the natural landform and soils and subsequent Aboriginal archaeological evidence within an area. Therefore, it is important to understand the nature and extent of previous land activities when assessing and understanding archaeological potential.

A parish map from 1897 shows the study area was part of a 40-acre plot owned by Edmund Burk. Given the size of the plot, it was likely this area was used as grazing or farming (Figure 8) (Lindsay 1994: 4-7). The vegetation clearance and potential farming that may have occurred during this time would have likely removed any potential culturally modified trees that may have once been present within the study area. These historical activities likely also impacted or redeposited the top layers of soil through ploughing and livestock movement that may have contained Aboriginal stone lithics.

Between the late 1800s and the 1920s the study area was gradually subdivided into multiple residential and commercial lots (Figure 9). Henry Marcus Clark (1859 – 1913) was a successful retail businessman at this time that ran several shops in Sydney and Newcastle as part of the Marcus Clark & Co Ltd (Lech 2011). The company decided to expand the business south of Sydney (Lech 2011). In either 1896 or 1902 (different sources state conflicting dates) and opened a ‘sample room’ opposite the study area (SHI #6474). In 1905 the ‘sample room’ was replaced by an approximate 20m frontage two-storey building within the southern portion of the study area known as the ‘Marcus Clark Building’ (SHI LEP #6474). In 1921, this building was further expanded to 39m of frontage on crown street and 7315.2m of floor space which opened on 16 June that year. The building and its clock tower were notably visible in historical photographs from 1921 (Figure 9) (SHI LEP #6474). This image also shows the remainder of the study area at the time with other commercial shop frontages along Crown Street visible. An historical image from the year previous (1920) shows the northwestern corner of the study area had been likely levelled for the construction of the buildings and roads indicated by a soil heap in the very left of the image.

Figure 8: Indicative location of the study area on 1897 Parish of Wollongong Map. (Source: Department of Land).

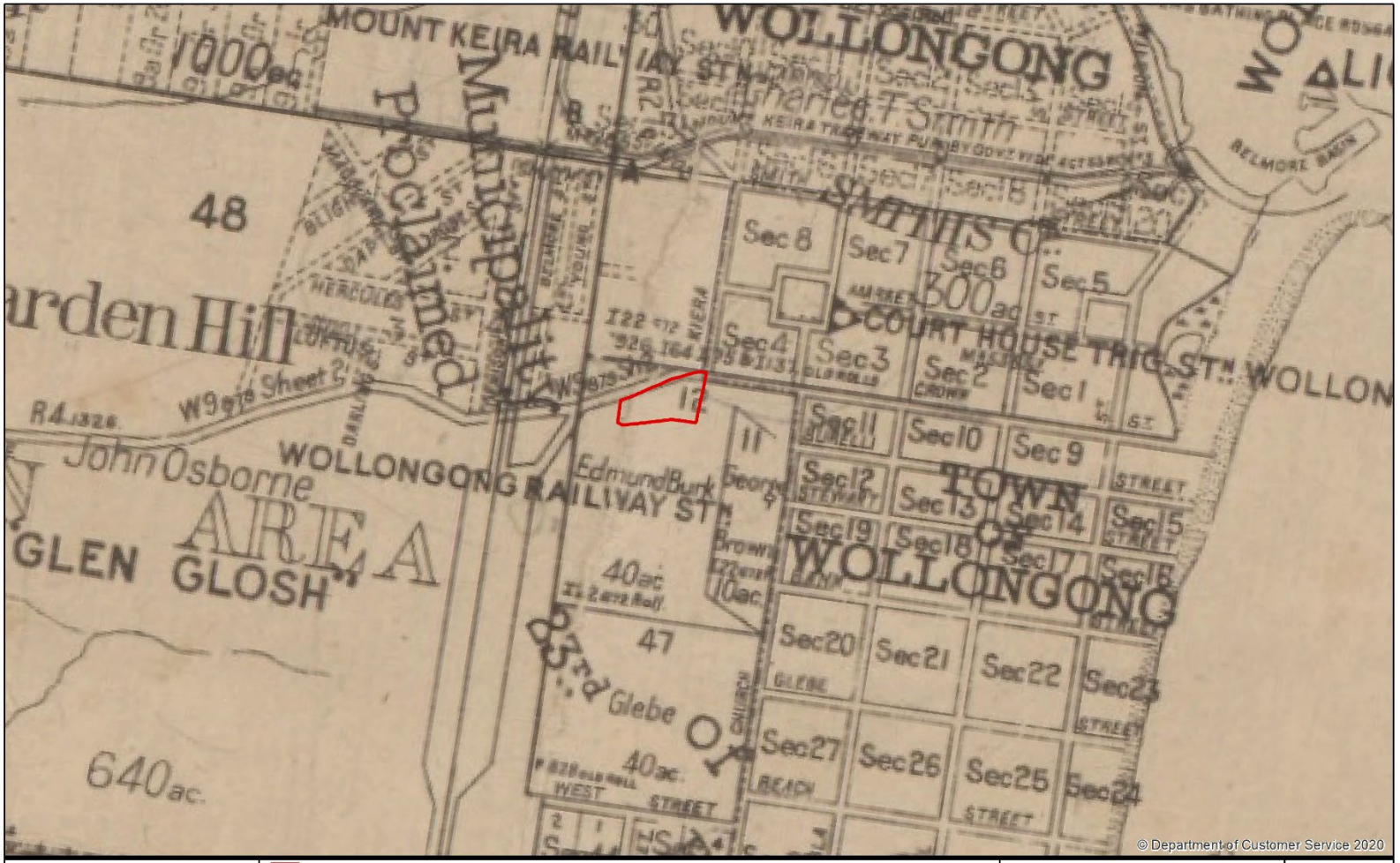


Figure 9:1921 Historical oblique photograph of the study area outlined in red. View southeast. (Source: Wollongong City Libraries).

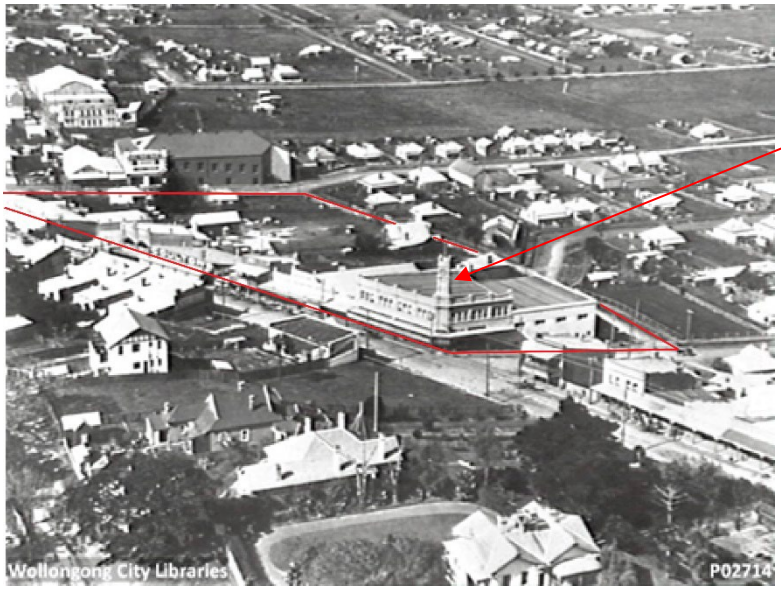
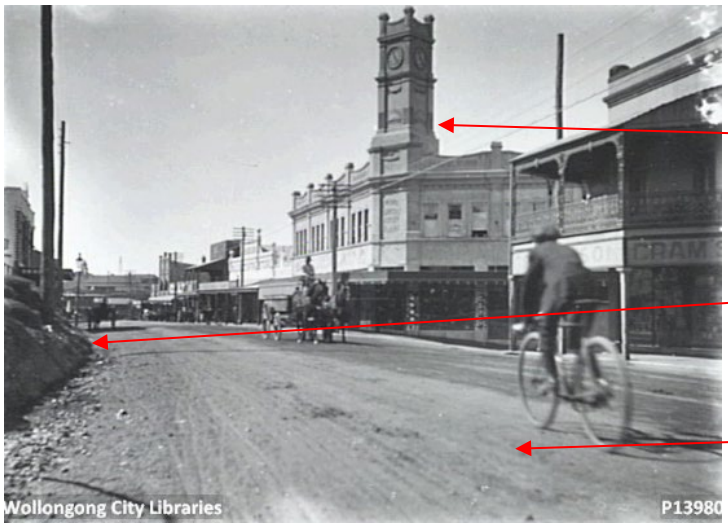


Figure 10:1920 Historical photograph of the northwestern corner of the study area showing the original Marcus Clark building and clock tower on the corner of Crown Street and Atchison Street. View southeast. (Source: Wollongong City Libraries).

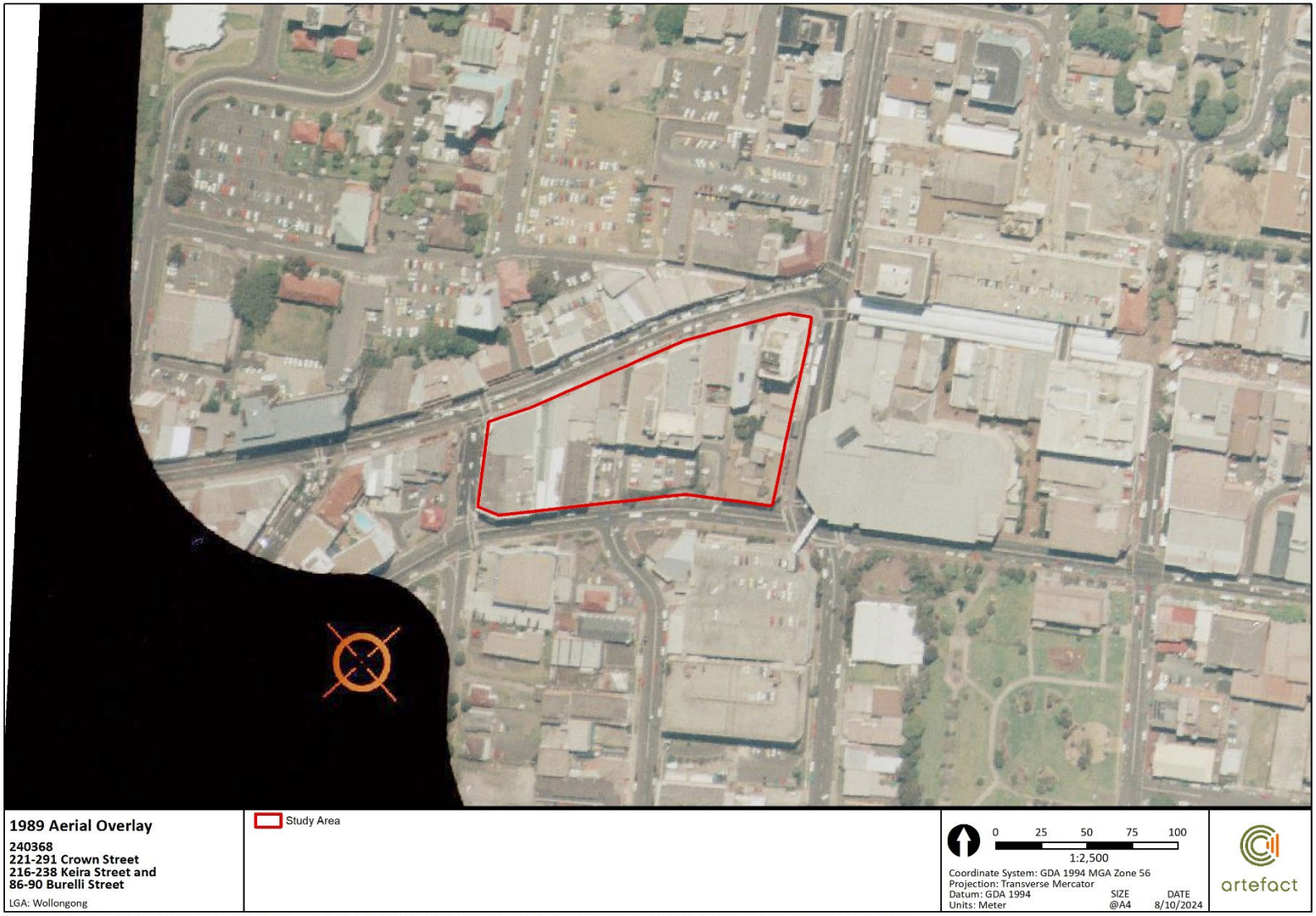


In 1957 the building was completely remodelled that included the removal of the federation detailing on the clock tower and façade. The building was expanded again to incorporate 287 – 291 Crown Street extending to the southern boundary of the study area along Burelli Street (SHI LEP #6474) visible from a historical arial photograph from the 1950s. The northeastern half of the study area had remained relatively the same since the 1920s (Figure 9). Gradual expansions and modernisation of the existing commercial buildings along Crown Street and Kiera Street occurred in the 1950s (Figure 11) and 1960s (Figure 12). These expansions continued into the latter half of the 20th century expanding southward towards Burelli Street where a carpark was constructed (Figure 13). All of these developments have likely resulted in significant ground disturbances and there is low or no potential for Aboriginal objects to remain undisturbed within the study area.

Figure 11: Historical Imagery 1950 (Source: Historical Imagery Viewer).

Figure 12: Historical Imagery 1961 (Source: Historical Imagery Viewer).

Figure 13: Historical Imagery 1989 (Source: Historical Imagery Viewer).



6.0 SUMMARY AND PREDICTIONS

6.1 Regional and local archaeological character

6.1.1 Regional archaeological character

For tens of thousands of years, Aboriginal people cultivated and cared for their coastal environment, which in turn provided them with plentiful resources to sustain their social, ritual and economic systems. Archaeological evidence has confirmed a presence on the south coast from at least 20,000 years ago. The archaeological record indicates that the area has been inhabited and systematically exploited through varying periods of climatic change, including during the Last Glacial Maximum (around 24,000- 17,000 years ago), when the sea level was approximately 120-130 metres lower than the present level (Barrows *et al* 2002). Based on the AHIMS search and previous archaeological investigations in the region, landscapes associated with sand deposits along foreshore areas were found to have higher frequencies of preserved artefact and shell midden deposits. In the broader context of the New South Wales south coast, this pattern of inhabitation reflects those seen across the region.

6.1.2 Local archaeological character

The local archaeological character is consistent with the regional archaeological character of the Wollongong area, in that the historical patterns of local urban development has resulted in a progressive and largely unmonitored negative impact to the survival of Aboriginal sites.

The Gwynneville soil landscape is vulnerable to erosion and flooding, and Aboriginal sites may have a higher than average probability of dispersals and reworking through time, As a result, the known distribution of Aboriginal sites within the local area (on AHIMS) is heavily biased towards areas which have suffered less disturbance adjacent the foreshore and dunes to the east where a concentration of Aboriginal sites are located (not Gwynneville Soils). Proximity to sands and the ocean foreshore have also been identified as predictive landforms of the presence of Aboriginal sites. Art and grinding grooves may be present on exposed sandstone, and isolated artefacts have been identified in some areas of high ground disturbance.

The study area is situated at around the 10m AHD contour. In terms of topography, the original landform setting of the study area was on the northern margin of a broad low angle floodplain and valley floor landform (to the south and east). The study site is at the base of a steepening straight slope rising northwards to form a low isolated hill at 30m AHD. Given this position, colluvial wash and low angle fan deposits may have been present. However they would have been subjected to historical period disturbance.

6.2 Predictive model

Based on the environmental background of the study area as well as the findings of previous archaeological investigations, the following predictions are made:

- Most recorded Aboriginal sites in the area are located on the foreshore, possibly reflecting the greater survivability of archaeological evidence of exploitation of those areas, and the possible concentration of certain activities in those areas
- The extensive amount of residential and industrial development would have impacted the survivability of archaeological contexts to some degree

- Although the study area is close to the base of a slope which may have colluvial deposits, it is likely they would have been impacted to some extent by historical disturbance

7.0 METHODOLOGY

7.1 Aims

The aims of archaeological survey are to:

- Test the predictive model by ground truthing the findings of the desktop assessment
- Identify and record all Aboriginal objects visible within the study area
- `Gather enough information to assess scientific values of identified Aboriginal objects

7.2 Constraints and limitations

Ground surface visibility was extremely limited due to the majority of the study area covered in concrete and existing buildings.

Sample strategy

An archaeological survey was conducted on 18 October 2024. In attendance was Lily Hackett (Heritage Consultant, Artefact Heritage), Rebcca Bryant (Senior Heritage Consultant, Artefact Heritage), Hannah Matagia, (Graduate Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Officer), James Davis (Wodi Wodi Dharawal/Yuin Traditional Owner, and registered South Coast People native title claimant), and Steven Henry (Site Officer, Illawarra LALC). Due to the only accessible portions of the study area comprising the surrounding pedestrian walkway and southern carpark, the survey was undertaken as one single survey unit.

Survey procedure

Archaeological survey was undertaken in accordance with the Code of Practice. The survey was undertaken on foot. A GPS enabled tablet was used to collect spatially logged and annotated photographs and field records. The coordinate system projection used for all recording was GDA 94 MGA 56. Scales were used for photographs where appropriate. The land surface, soil exposures, vegetation condition were observed and photographed with a scale. No Aboriginal sites or PADs were identified.

8.0 RESULTS

8.1 Description of survey units

The study area is located within a low gradient slope descending south-eastward towards Burelli Street (Figure 14, Figure 15). The majority of the study area contains high levels of ground disturbance resulting from construction of the extant multi-storey buildings (Figure 14, Figure 15 and Figure 16). Although the extent of the disturbance below the buildings was not accessible nor visible, it is likely the construction of footings and levelling during the buildings construction has occurred. Numerous conduits and evidence of trenching for subsurface electrical, water and telecommunications infrastructure were observed. The pedestrian walkway around the perimeter of the study area was also indicative of previous ground disturbance (Figure 20, Figure 21). The area surrounding the open-air carpark in the southern portion of the study area also contained an underground carpark (Figure 18, Figure 19) and terracing of the slope (Figure 17) further highlighting significant changes to the landscape and Gwynneville soils that may have once contained Aboriginal archaeological deposits.

Three raised garden beds were observed adjacent to the pedestrian walkway (Figure 22, Figure 23). Small patches of soil were visible through the commercial bark mulch and leaf litter. Due to the raised nature of the garden beds and high levels of disturbance surrounding these beds, the observed soil was likely redeposited commercial soil. The garden bed within the carpark area in the southern portion of the study area appears to be within the natural slope gradient. However, it abuts concrete kerbing which would have required some excavation (Figure 24). The soil comprised light greyish brown sandy soil consistent with the Gwynneville soil landscape. Numerous small (>50mm) quartzite and fine-grained stones were identified within the garden bed. These stones were non-artefactual and were assessed as likely to have been introduced into the area (Figure 25). This garden bed also contained broken glass, metal and other dumped building material. The ground within the remainder of the study area was obscured by concrete and existing buildings, which reduced the ground visibility to less than 5%.

A small area east of the underground carpark was highlighted by James Davis and Steven Henry during the survey as the least disturbed portion of remaining natural gradient of the study area (Figure 26 and Figure 27). They commented that if Aboriginal objects are present in the study area they would be potentially located underneath the existing concrete and gravel in this area. However, assessment of this area in line with the predictive model indicates that it does not meet the criteria to be considered a PAD.

Figure 14: Existing buildings within the northeastern corner of the study area. View from footbridge north of study area.

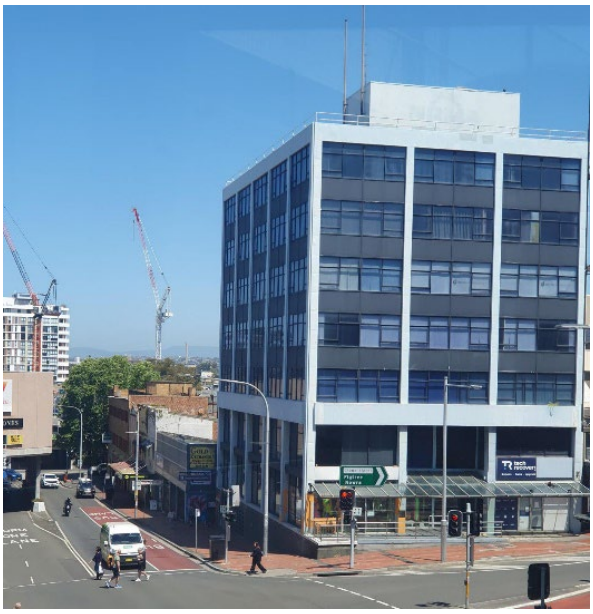


Figure 15: Existing buildings and slope within the southeastern corner of study area. View southeast.

Figure 16: Marcus Clarck building within the northwestern corner of study area. View southeast.

Figure 17: Terracing within the southwestern portion of study area adjacent the existing carpark. View north.

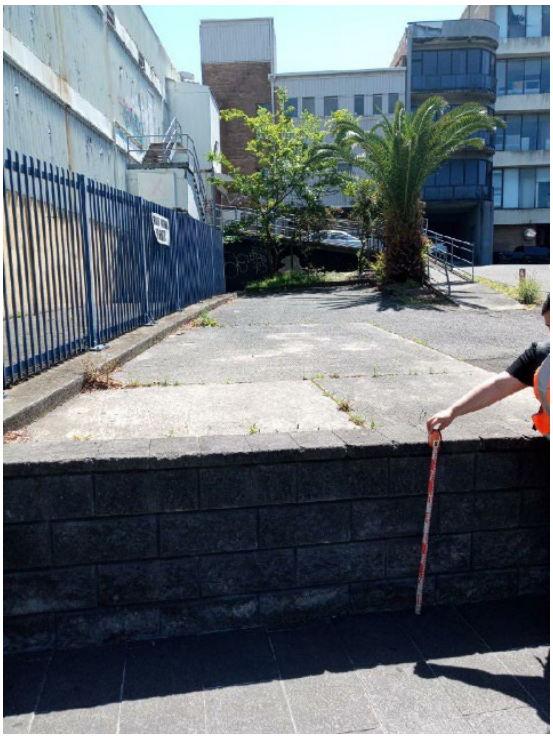


Figure 18: Existing underground carpark in the central portion of the southern half of the study area. View east.

Figure 19: Existing carpark along Burelli Street. View north.

Figure 20: Existing water and telecommunication below-ground infrastructure.

Figure 21: Evidence of previous trenching along Crown Street. View west.

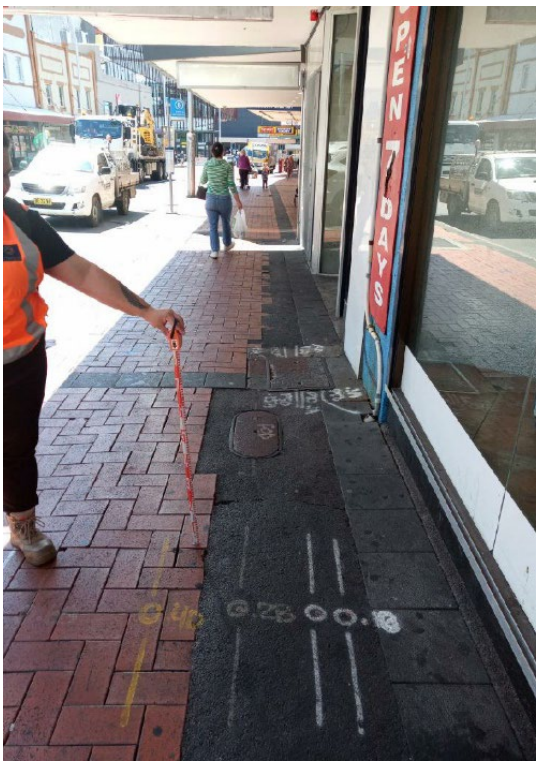


Figure 22: Raised garden bed.

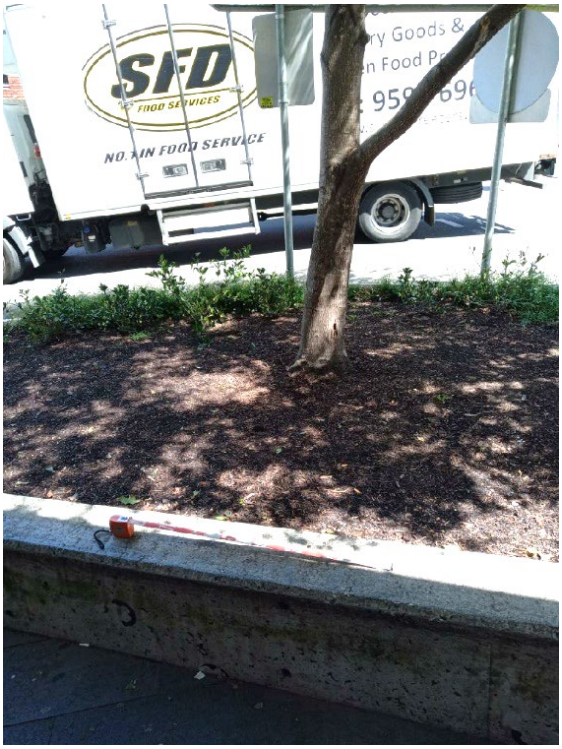


Figure 23: Raised garden bed.

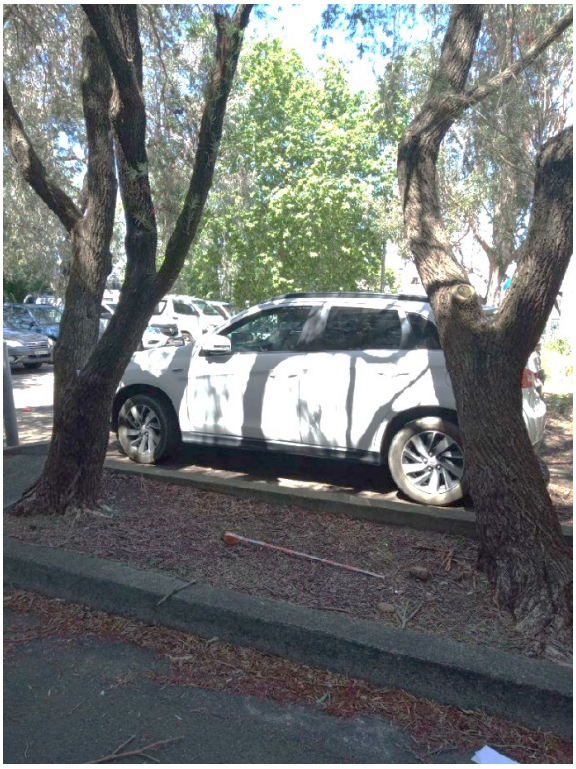


Figure 24: Soil exposure within the southern carpark. View south

Figure 25: Soil exposure within the southern carpark

Figure 26: Vegetation, gravel and bitumen carpark within the southern portion of the study area. View west.

Figure 27: Vegetation, gravel and bitumen carpark.

8.2 Analysis of survey coverage and effectiveness

Effective survey coverage is outlined in Table 6, and landform survey coverage is outlined in Table 7. Where visibility or exposure in a survey unit were less than 5%, this has been rounded down to 0% in accordance with Requirement 9 of the Code of Practice. Exposure at the site was very low, as the majority of ground surfaces had been covered by concrete and existing buildings.

Table 6: Effective survey coverage.

Survey Unit	Landform	Survey unit area (m^2)	Visibility (%)	Exposure (%)	Effective Survey Coverage (m^2)	Effective Coverage (%)
Whole study area	Slope	13 088	0	0	0	0

Table 7: Landform survey coverage.

Landform	Landform area (m^2)	Area effectively surveyed (m^2)	% of landform effectively surveyed	Number of sites
Whole study area	Slope	0	0	0

8.3 Comment from a representative of the South Coast People Native Title claimants.

James Davis from the South Coast People registered Native Title group requested that an inspection of exposed ground be undertaken after removal of the existing concrete in the carpark (Figure 28) by a site officer from the ILALC or South Coast People registered native title group. Mr Davis suggested that this area has been less impacted by historical impact and there may be original soil deposit underneath the existing concreted carpark.

8.4 Response to comments from representative of the South Coast People Native Title claimants.

The archaeological assessment did not identify any Aboriginal objects or areas of PAD within the study area. Given the high level of historical impact, there is no-low potential for Aboriginal objects to be present within the study area in an undisturbed soil context. However, James Davis from the South Coast People registered native title group requested that an inspection of exposed ground be undertaken after removal of the existing concrete in the carpark by a site officer from the ILALC or South Coast People registered native title group (Figure 28). This is to satisfy community concerns that no Aboriginal objects are present within this area.

Figure 28: Area of ground (shaded yellow) requested to be inspected by a representative of the ILALC or South Coast People registered native title claimant after the removal of the existing carpark.

9.0 DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The results of the survey were consistent with the background research concerning the nature of the study area as containing high historical disturbance levels that has greatly impacted the potential for preserved Aboriginal archaeological material. This was true for the majority of the study area being significantly disturbed from levelling, building construction and subsurface infrastructure and a car park that has likely removed and disturbed large areas of once residual Gwynneville soils. This has resulted in the likely removal of Aboriginal archaeological material that may have been deposited within that soil in the majority of the study area.

During the site survey an area in the southern ground-level car park of the study area was identified as being the least disturbed. In conversation on site with James Davis and Steven Henry, they indicated that if Aboriginal objects were present within the study area they would be located within this area. James Davis requested that their preference would be for an inspection to take place after the removal of the gravel and bitumen buildings to confirm the presence or absence Aboriginal artefacts within this area.

However, assessment of that area with regard to the predictive model indicates that it does not meet the criteria for a PAD. In particular the predictive model highlights the close proximity (200-100 m) of water course, especially the ocean foreshore and sand dunes, as indicative of potential Aboriginal objects. In contrast, the study area is located approximately 1.7km from Wollongong Beach foreshore, and approximately 770 m northwest of Gurungatay waterway. Although, the lack of sites within, or in close proximity to the study area, may also be due to the rapid and large-scale development of the Wollongong City area which would have potentially impacted Aboriginal sites before they could be formally recorded. The AHIMS extensive search also indicates that isolated artefacts can be located in disturbed contexts further from waterways, as was the case with AHIMS ID 52-2-4498.

10.0 SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

10.1 Significance assessment criteria

In accordance with the Code of Practice, an assessment of the scientific value of an Aboriginal object is required in order to form the basis of its management. The Guide provides the following criteria for the assessment of scientific value:

- Research potential - does the evidence suggest any potential to contribute to an understanding of the area and/or region and/or state's natural and cultural history?
- Representativeness - how much variability (outside and/or inside the subject area) exists, what is already conserved, how much connectivity is there?
- Rarity - is the subject area important in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function or design no longer practised? Is it in danger of being lost or of exceptional interest?
- Education potential - does the subject area contain teaching sites or sites that might have teaching potential?

It is important to note that heritage significance is a dynamic value.

10.2 Statement of scientific value

No Aboriginal sites were identified within the study area; therefore, no statement of can be made.

11.0 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

11.1 Description of likely impacts

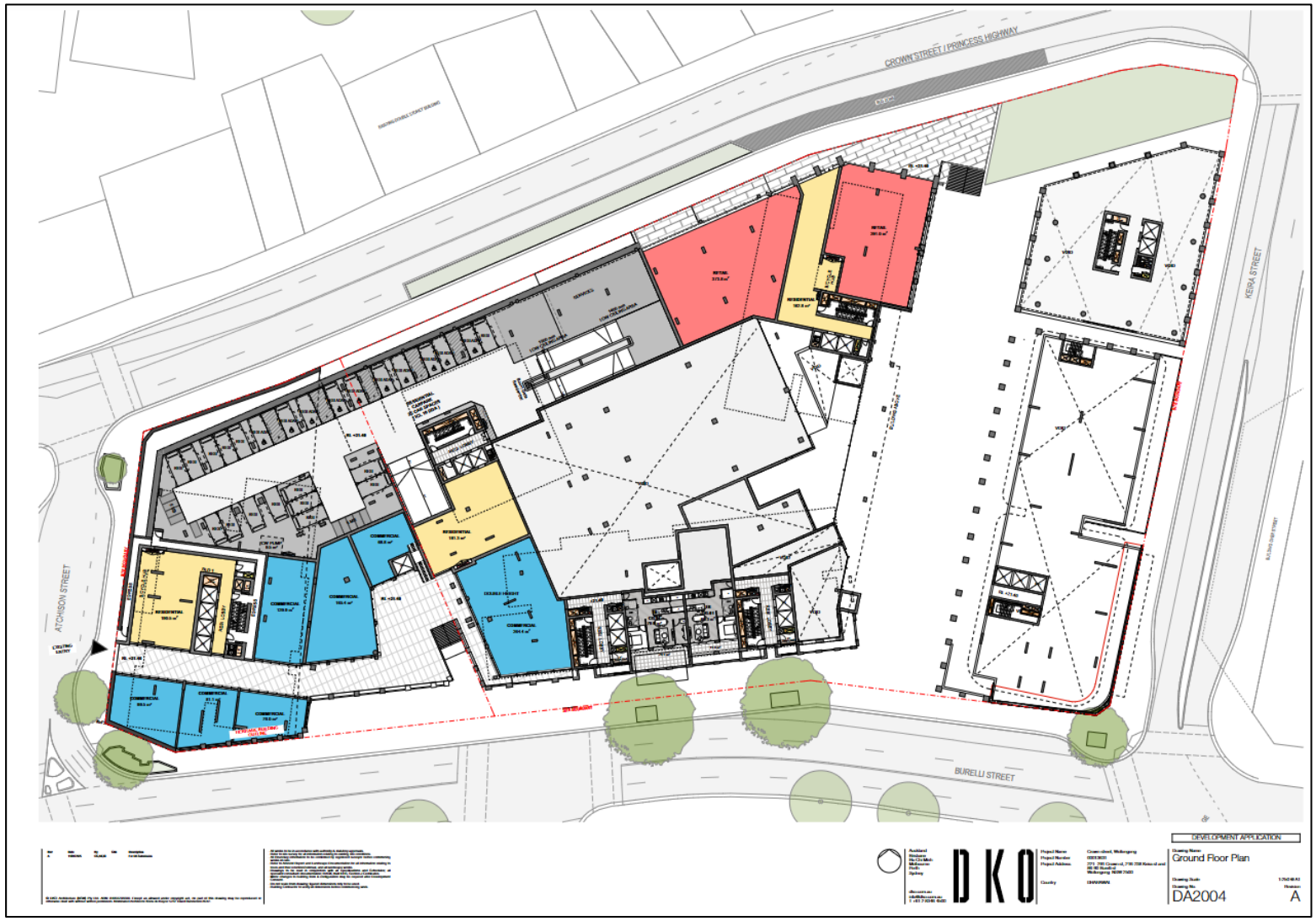
The proposed works will include the demolition of existing buildings an infrastructure within the study area for the subsequent construction of a mix-development (Figure 29). This developed will include:

- Residential and commercia buildings.
- Basement car parking

11.2 Potential impacts to Aboriginal heritage

No Aboriginal sites were identified within the study area therefore no harm to Aboriginal objects is expected to take place.

Figure 29: Proposed development



12.0 MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES

12.1 Guiding principles

The overall guiding principle for cultural heritage management is that where possible Aboriginal sites should be conserved.

Where unavoidable impacts occur then measures to mitigate and manage impacts are proposed. Mitigation measures primarily concern preserving the heritage values of sites beyond the physical existence of the site. The most common methods involve detailed recording of Aboriginal objects, archaeological test and salvage excavations, artefact analysis and, where appropriate, reburial of Aboriginal objects in a location determined by the RAPs.

Mitigation measures vary depending on the assessment of archaeological significance of a particular Aboriginal site and are based on its research potential, rarity, representatives and educational value. In general, the significance of a site would influence the choice of preferred conservation outcomes and appropriate mitigation measures, usually on the following basis:

- Low archaeological significance – conservation where possible. SSD Conditions of Approval would be required to impact the site before work can commence.
- Moderate archaeological significance – conservation where possible. If conservation was not practicable, further archaeological investigation would be required such as salvage excavations or surface collection in accordance with the SSD Conditions of Approval.
- High archaeological significance – conservation as a priority. Where all other practical alternatives have been discounted mitigation measured such as comprehensive salvage excavations in accordance with the SSD Conditions of Approval would be required.

Sites of unknown scientific value should be conserved where possible. Where conservation is not practical further investigation under the Code of Practice will be required to confirm the presence of Aboriginal objects and gather enough information to assess significance. Archaeological test excavation is not a mitigation measure, it is an investigatory action required to gather enough information to inform the development of appropriate mitigation measures.

12.2 Proposed management or mitigation measures

This report has identified that Aboriginal objects are unlikely to be present within the study area therefore test excavations or further archaeological investigations are not required. In accordance with the SEARs an ACHAR should be prepared.

12.3 Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report

In accordance with the industry specific SEARs, an ACHAR is required to support the SSD conditions of approval. The ACHAR must include:

- Concise and plain English summary of the findings of this ASR and the Archaeological Test Excavation Report, in addition to any other relevant technical reports
- Cultural Values Assessment
- Description and summary of Aboriginal stakeholder consultation

- Assessment of cultural heritage significance of the study area
- An assessment of impacts and recommendations for management or mitigation measures, including the UFP.

12.4 Changes to the project area or scope of works

Advice provided within this report is based upon the most recent information provided by the proponent at the time of writing. Any changes made to the project should be assessed by an archaeologist in consultation with the RAPs. Any changes that may impact on Aboriginal sites not assessed as part of the project may warrant further investigation and result in changes to the recommended management and mitigation measures.

13.0 CONCLUSION

13.1 Summary

- The background research identified no registered AHIMS sites were located within the study area.
- The study area contained high levels of historical ground disturbance.
- No Aboriginal objects were identified during the survey.
- The assessment found the study area is unlikely to contain Aboriginal objects.
- A representative from the South Coast People registered Native Title group requested that an inspection of exposed ground be undertaken after removal of the existing concrete in the carpark by a site officer from the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council or South Coast People registered native title group. This is to satisfy community concerns that no Aboriginal objects are present within this area.

13.2 Recommendations

Based on the results of this assessment and in accordance with Aboriginal heritage guidelines mandated in the SEARs for the proposal, the following recommendations are made:

- An ACHAR is required to support the SSD conditions of approval.
- No further Aboriginal archaeological assessment or investigation is required, and the works may proceed with caution.
- If additional areas are added to the existing study area, additional archaeological assessment would be required.
- An unexpected finds policy outlining the protocols to be followed in the event that unexpected Aboriginal objects are encountered during the works must be prepared and presented to project personnel during site inductions.

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APPENDIX A – AHIMS RECORDS

AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : 240368
Client Service ID : 936813

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
52-2-2225	JP GALVIN PARK BURIAL	AGD	56	307100	6190000	Open site	Valid	Burial : -, Artefact : -		102212
	Contact	Recorders	Mr.Phil Hunt,Miss.Jo Erskine					Permits		
52-2-4683	North Beach Rockshelter PAD	GDA	56	307310	6189341	Closed site	Valid	Habitation Structure : -, Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -		
	Contact	Recorders	Doctor.Jillian Comber,Comber Consultants Pty Limited					Permits		
52-2-4682	Wollongong Beach 2 Axe Grinding Grooves	GDA	56	307263	6189491	Open site	Valid	Grinding Groove : -		
	Contact	Recorders	Doctor.Jillian Comber,Comber Consultants Pty Limited					Permits		
52-2-2189	Lagoon Restaurant 1	GDA	56	306900	6190275	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -, Shell : -		99197,102212, 105251,10525 2
	Contact	Recorders	Biosis Pty Ltd - Wollongong,Mrs.Samantha Keats,Mrs.Caryll Sefton					Permits	1332,1425,5028	
52-2-1783	Brighton Lawn Park 1;	AGD	56	307350	6188880	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	102212
	Contact	Recorders	Mr.Peter Kuskie					Permits	1059,5248	
58-4-0688	Brighton Lawn Park 1(same as 52-2-1783)	AGD	56	307350	6188880	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	
	Contact	Recorders	Mr.Peter Kuskie					Permits	5248	
52-2-2187	PAD Wollongong Coast	AGD	56	307355	6189200	Open site	Valid	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -		102212
	Contact	Recorders	Navin Officer Heritage Consultants Pty Ltd					Permits	1294,1343	
52-2-1686	belmore basin;	AGD	56	307300	6188870	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	2476,102212
	Contact	Recorders	Kerry Navin					Permits	458,5243,5248	
52-2-4878	Baby Cave Look-out	GDA	56	306386	6189758	Open site	Valid	Grinding Groove : -, Stone Arrangement : -		
	Contact	Recorders	Boral Resources (Vic) Pty Ltd,Doctor.Louise Keyte					Permits		
52-2-4755	82A Cliff Road, Wollongong	GDA	56	307300	6189238	Open site	Partially Destroyed	Artefact : -, Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -		104825
	Contact	Recorders	Doctor.Jillian Comber,Doctor.Jillian Comber,Comber Consultants Pty Limited,Comb					Permits	5005,5264	
52-3-0757	WOLLONGONG HARBOUR;	AGD	56	307300	6188870	Open site	Valid	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden	102212
	Contact	Recorders	Kerry Navin					Permits	5248	
52-2-2067	Stuart Park	GDA	56	306973	6190408	Open site	Partially Destroyed	Artefact : -, Burial : -, Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -	Burial/s	102212,10444 1,105251,1052 52
	Contact	Recorders	ASRSYS,Biosis Pty Ltd - Wollongong,Biosis Pty Ltd - Wollongong,Mrs.Samantha Kea					Permits	4821,5028	
52-2-2193	Osborne Park	AGD	56	307200	6188950	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		98110
	Contact	Recorders	Navin Officer Heritage Consultants Pty Ltd					Permits	1370,1371,1408	

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 04/10/2024 for Lily (Artefact) Hackett for the following area at Datum :GDA, Zone : 56, Eastings : 304310.0 - 307797.0, Northings : 6186642.0 - 6190642.0 with a Buffer of 0 meters.. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 17

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AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : 240368
Client Service ID : 936813

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
52-2-4498	Civic Place ISO	GDA	56	306787	6188487	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		104131,104132
	Contact	Recorders	Biosis Pty Ltd - Wollongong,Mrs.Samantha Keats					Permits	4368,4842	
52-2-4681	Wollongong Beach Midden 1	GDA	56	307352	6189228	Open site	Valid	Shell : -		
	Contact	Recorders	Doctor.Jillian Comber,Comber Consultants Pty Limited					Permits		
52-2-4615	North Beach PAD 1	GDA	56	307130	6190005	Open site	Not a Site	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -		104441
	Contact	Recorders	Biosis Pty Ltd - Wollongong,Biosis Pty Ltd - Wollongong,Mrs.Samantha Keats,Mrs.S					Permits	4679	
52-2-4776	NWSC SHL_0001	GDA	56	307117	6189955	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -, Shell : -		
	Contact	Recorders	Heritage NSW - 12 Darcy Street,Miss.Emily Dillon					Permits	5075	

**** Site Status**
Valid - The site has been recorded and accepted onto the system as valid
Destroyed - The site has been completely impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There is nothing left of the site on the ground but proponents should proceed with caution.
Partially Destroyed - The site has been only partially impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There might be parts or sections of the original site still present on the ground
Not a site - The site has been originally entered and accepted onto AHIMS as a valid site but after further investigations it was decided it is NOT an aboriginal site. Impact of this type of site does not require permit but Heritage NSW should be notified

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 04/10/2024 for Lily (Artefact) Hackett for the following area at Datum :GDA, Zone : 56, Eastings : 304310.0 - 307797.0, Northings : 6186642.0 - 6190642.0 with a Buffer of 0 meters.. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 17

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