

Carrington Road, Castle Hill

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
Assessment Report

LGA: Hills Shire

Report to Arada Management
Services

September 2025



 artefact

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) has been prepared by Artefact Heritage and Environment (Artefact) on behalf of Arada Management Services (the proponent) for a State Significant Development Application.

Arada Management Services are proposing residential development for the property known as 2 Fishburn Crescent, Castle Hill, legally described as Lot 1 DP 1316896. The development will provide approximately 431 new apartments across 3 buildings with shared communal facilities, rooftop terraces and landscaping.

The purpose of this ACHAR is to address the anticipated Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the project which are yet to be issued. It is expected that the SEARs will require:

- An ACHAR which must be prepared in accordance with the Guide to investigating, assessing, and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW (OEH 2011).

In line with the above guidelines, Artefact has prepared this ACHAR completed in accordance with the *Guide to investigating, assessing, and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). Artefact have previously prepared a standalone Archaeological Technical Report (ATR) that included an archaeological survey of the study area that did not identify any Aboriginal objects or areas of archaeological potential. The background research and consultation with RAPs for the project has been used to inform the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Values discussed in this ACHAR.

This assessment found that:

- There are no AHIMS sites within the study area or its vicinity
- The study area has been subjected to previous disturbance through the historical development impacts across the study area
- No Aboriginal objects or areas of archaeological potential were identified during an archaeological survey conducted as part of the assessment
- No specific cultural heritage values were found to be associated with the study area
- The proposed development is unlikely to result in any impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage

This assessment recommended that:

- No further Aboriginal heritage assessment or investigations are required, and the proposed works can proceed with caution
- An Unexpected Finds Procedure must be prepared prior to the commencement of works;
 - To support the Unexpected Finds Procedure consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties must be maintained
 - A Heritage Induction should be prepared and all; workers should be inducted to understand their obligations under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* in relation to Aboriginal Heritage.
- If changes are made to the proposal that may result in impact to areas not assessed by this report, further assessment must be undertaken

CONTENTS

1.0	Introduction.....	1
1.1	Project brief	1
1.2	Description of the study area.....	1
1.3	Aims and objectives.....	1
1.4	Statutory framework	2
2.0	Summary of Consultation	4
2.1	Stage 1	4
2.1.1	Agency letters	4
2.1.2	Advertisement.....	4
2.1.3	Registration of Aboriginal parties.....	4
2.2	Stage 2	5
2.3	Stage 3	5
2.4	Stage 4	6
3.0	Summary and analysis of background information	8
3.1	Aboriginal History	8
3.2	Archaeological background	8
3.3	AHIMS search	10
3.4	Environmental background.....	12
3.5	Predictive model	13
4.0	Summary of field investigations	14
5.0	Cultural heritage values	15
5.1	Methodology	15
5.1.1	Cultural landscape	15
5.1.2	Types of values.....	15
5.2	Identified Aboriginal cultural heritage values.....	16
5.3	Aboriginal cultural values within the study area	16
6.0	Significance assessment	17
6.1	Significance assessment criteria	17
6.1.1	Historic value	17
6.1.2	Aesthetic value.....	18
6.1.3	Socio/cultural value.....	18
6.1.4	Scientific value	18
6.2	Statement of significance	18
7.0	Impact assessment.....	19
7.1	Proposed works.....	19
7.2	Aboriginal heritage impact.....	19

7.3	Ecological Sustainable Development principles	19
7.3.1	The precautionary principle	19
7.3.2	The principle of intergenerational equity	20
7.4	Cumulative impacts	20
8.0	Management and mitigation measures	21
8.1	Guiding principles	21
8.2	Proposed measures	21
8.3	Changes to the project area	21
9.0	Conclusion	22
9.1	Overview of findings	22
9.2	Recommendations	22
10.0	References	23
	Appendix A – Archaeological Technical report.....	A
	Appendix B – Consultation records	B

FIGURES

Figure 1: The study area	3
Figure 2: AHIMS Extensive Search.....	11

TABLES

Table 1. Secretary's Environmental Requirements	2
Table 2: List of registered stakeholders	4
Table 3. Summary of Aboriginal stakeholder comments on the Assessment Methodology	6
Table 4. Summary of Aboriginal stakeholder comments on the draft ACHAR.....	6
Table 5: Cultural heritage values identified for the study and surroundings	16

NOTE ON LANGUAGE IN QUOTES

A number of quotes used in this report come from documents written in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries by European observers. They have been included because they provide information on the lives of Aboriginal people in the region, though the language used and views expressed by these writers can be offensive and distressing.

GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS

Aboriginal cultural heritage: The material (objects) and intangible (mythological places, dreaming stories etc) traditions and practices associated with past and present-day Aboriginal communities.

Aboriginal object: Any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale), including Aboriginal remains, relating to the Aboriginal habitation of NSW.

Aboriginal place: Any place declared to be an Aboriginal place under s.94 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

AHIMS: Acronym for 'Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System'. AHIMS is a register that contains information about NSW Aboriginal heritage, and it is maintained by DECCW.

Archaeological object: any object that was made, affected, used, or modified in some way by humans in the past and has been discarded.

Archaeology: The scientific study of human history, with focus on material remains and ethnographic evidence.

Area of archaeological sensitivity: A part of the landscape that contains demonstrated occurrences of cultural material. The precise level of sensitivity will depend on the density and significance of the material.

Artefact: An item of cultural material created by humans.

Artefact scatter: Where two or more stone artefacts are found within an area of potential archaeological deposit or a site.

Easting: This is a measurement used to determine location. The easting is the x-coordinate and relates to the vertical lines on a map, which divide east to west. It increases in size when moving further east.

Exposure: The level of ground exposure is based on the whether the landform is eroding, aggrading or stable.

In situ: A description of any cultural material that lies undisturbed in its original point of deposition.

Northing: This is a measurement used to determine location. The northing is the y-coordinate and relates to the horizontal lines on a map, which divide north to south. It increases in size when moving further north.

Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD): A PAD is a location that is considered to have a potential for subsurface cultural material. This is determined from a visual inspection of the site, background research of the area and the landform's cultural importance.

Scarred trees: Trees that feature Aboriginal derived scars are distinct due to the scar's oval or symmetrical shape and the occasional use of steel, or more rarely, stone axe marks on the scar's surface. Scarred trees are identified by the purposeful removal of bark for use in the manufacture of artefacts such as containers, shields and canoes. The bark was also used for the construction of shelters. Other types of scarring include toeholds cut in the trunks or branches of trees for climbing purposes and the removal of bark to indicate the presence of burials in the area

Survey: In archaeological terms, this refers to walking over a surface while studying the location of artefacts and landmarks. These are then recorded and photographed.

Tool: A stone flake that has undergone secondary flaking or retouch.

Visibility: Refers to the degree to which the surface of the ground can be observed. This may be influenced by natural processes such as wind erosion or the character of the native vegetation, and by land use practices, such as ploughing or grading. It is generally expressed in terms of the percentage of the ground surface visible for an observer on foot.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project brief

This Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) has been prepared by Artefact Heritage and Environment (Artefact) on behalf of Arada Management Services (the proponent) for a State Significant Development Application (SSDA).

Arada Management Services are proposing residential development for the property known as 2 Fishburn Crescent, Castle Hill, legally described as Lot 1 DP 1316896. The development will provide approximately 431 new apartments across 3 buildings with shared communal facilities, rooftop terraces and landscaping.

The purpose of this ACHAR is to address the anticipated Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the project which are yet to be issued. It is expected that the SEARs will require:

- An ACHAR which must be prepared in accordance with the Guide to investigating, assessing, and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW (OEH 2011).

In line with the above guidelines, Artefact has prepared this ACHAR completed in accordance with the *Guide to investigating, assessing, and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011). Artefact have previously prepared a standalone Archaeological Technical Report (ATR) that included an archaeological survey of the study area that did not identify any Aboriginal objects or areas of archaeological potential. The background research and consultation with RAPs for the project has been used to inform the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Values discussed in this ACHAR.

1.2 Description of the study area

The study area (Figure 1) is located at 2 Fishburn Crescent, Castle Hill, legally described as Lot 1 DP 1316896. The study area is comprised primarily of existing residential properties, and is bounded by Carrington Road to the north, Sexton Avenue to the east, Fishburn Crescent to the south and Middleton Avenue to the west. The study area is located within the Hills Shire Local Government area (LGA) and within the boundaries of the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC).

1.3 Aims and objectives

- This ACHAR considers the impacts that the proposed development would have on Aboriginal cultural heritage within the study area. The report includes:
 - assessment of the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the study area and identification of any specific areas of cultural significance
 - assessment of archaeological potential in the study area
 - the results of archaeological survey of the study area
 - Aboriginal stakeholder consultation.

This ACHAR is being undertaken in accordance with the following guidelines:

- *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigations of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water 2010b); hereafter, the Code of Practice
- *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011)
- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010b).

1.4 Statutory framework

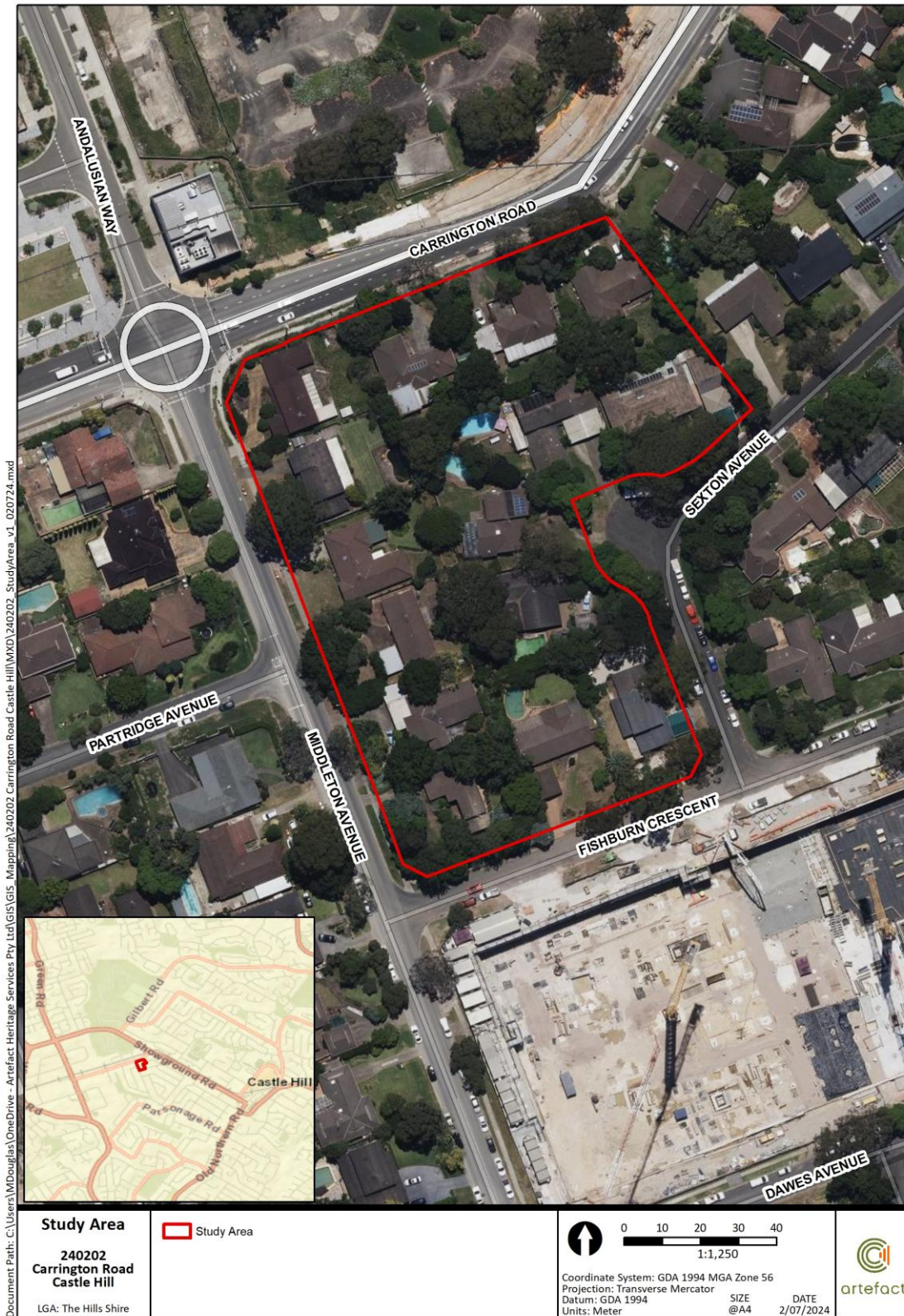
The development proposal will be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) for consideration as an SSD under Part 4.1 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. SEARs have not yet been granted. The anticipated SEARs requirements are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Secretary's Environmental Requirements

Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements	Where addressed in this report
19. 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 report

The appended Aboriginal Technical Report (ATR) contains the full legislative context for this report.

Figure 1: The study area



2.0 SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION

2.1 Stage 1

2.1.1 Agency letters

In accordance with Section 4.1.2 of the Consultation Requirements, Artefact Heritage corresponded with the following organisations by email on 10 July 2024 requesting the details of Aboriginal people who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the Aboriginal significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places within the local area:

- Heritage NSW
- Native Title Service Corporation (NTSCorp)
- National Native Title Tribunal
- Office of the Registrar, Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983
- The Hills Shire Council
- Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Greater Sydney Local Land Services

The due date for responses was 24 July 2024.

2.1.2 Advertisement

In accordance with Step 4.1.3 of the consultation requirements, an advertisement was placed on 10 July 2024 in Buy, Search, Sell from the 10 July 2024 until 9 August 2024. The advertisement invited all Aboriginal persons and organisations who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and places in the study area to register their interest by 24 July 2024.

2.1.3 Registration of Aboriginal parties

In accordance with Step 4.1.3 of the consultation requirements, letters and emails were sent on 30 July 2024 to all Aboriginal persons or organisations identified through responses from agencies contacted as part of Step 2.1.1. The letters provided details about the location and nature of the proposal and an invitation to register as an Aboriginal stakeholder. The registration of interest for the project was due on 13 August 2024. 13 groups registered for the project. The list of Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) is provided in Table 2.

Table 2: List of registered stakeholders

Group	Name
[Redacted content]	

Group	Name
-------	------

2.2 Stage 2

Stage 2 of the Consultation Requirements is to provide information regarding the scope of the proposed project and the proposed cultural heritage assessment process. To satisfy Stage 2 and Stage 3 of the Consultation Requirements, an ACHAR methodology was prepared that included relevant information and the details are outlined in Section 2.3.

2.3 Stage 3

A copy of the proposed assessment methodology was sent to the RAPs by Email on 14 August 2024, requesting feedback by 11 September 2024. The draft assessment methodology presented information about the project and invited feedback on the cultural significance of the area. A summary of the comments received by Artefact is presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Summary of Aboriginal stakeholder comments on the Assessment Methodology

Person / RAP group	Comment	Response
[Redacted content]		

2.4 Stage 4

A copy of the draft ACHAR was sent to the RAPs by email on 14 January 2024, requesting feedback by 11 February 2024. A summary of received by Artefact is provided in Table 4.

Table 4. Summary of Aboriginal stakeholder comments on the draft ACHAR

Person/ RAP group	Comment	Response
[Redacted content]		

Person/ RAP group	Comment	Response

3.0 SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 Aboriginal History

Aboriginal people, like other Indigenous or First Nations people around the world, say they have lived on Country for ‘time immemorial’ – that they have always been here, and their origins lie in the creation of the land and animals. As Sydney Elder and Wiradjuri activist Aunty Jenny Munro expresses:

‘...from time immemorial, we believe as Aboriginal people, Australia has been here from the first sunrise, our people have been here along with the continent, with the first sunrise. We know our land was given to us by Baiami, we have a sacred duty to protect that land’ (Munro in Currie 2008:4)

Archaeological discoveries support this deep connection, revealing that Aboriginal people have been in Australia for around 60,000 years, with significant sites in the Sydney region dating back tens of thousands of years. Despite the challenges of colonisation, including disease and displacement, Aboriginal culture and traditions remain deeply embedded in the landscape, with many ancient pathways, cultural sites, and practices still visible today.

The Sydney region, particularly around the Hawkesbury River, was a rich and significant area for Aboriginal people, supporting a large population with diverse resources. Aboriginal groups managed the land carefully through practices like firestick farming and had complex social structures and economies, often linked to specific territories. The impacts of colonisation are still evident, but Aboriginal culture persists through the preservation of rock art, traditional place names, and ongoing efforts to document and protect this rich heritage.

3.2 Archaeological background

Report	Summary
Cherrybrook Precinct: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study (Artefact Heritage 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Located 3.3 kilometres southeast of the study area• One PAD was recorded during survey with a recommendation to verify the extent of level terraces within woodland to either side of an ephemeral waterway in that location.• No Aboriginal objects were located within the Cherrybrook study area.
The King's School Masterplan: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (Artefact 2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Located 6.9 kilometres southeast of the study area• A survey found majority of the Kings School was significantly disturbed• An intact landform was identified in the northern portion of the Kings School study area, comprising a terrace 100 metres south of Hunts Creek• Four test pits were excavated over an area assessed as a PAD known as TKS PAD-01.• Excavation of TKS PAD-01 revealed no lithic artefacts and was therefore deemed as not a site.

Report	Summary
<p>Preliminary Aboriginal Assessment for the 'GoApe' High Wire Forest Adventure facility: proposed for the Bidjigal Reserve in Baulkham Hills, NSW (A.R.C Heritage 2009)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located 4 kilometres southeast of the study area • Multiple creeks run through Bidjigal reserve with • A rock shelter with an occupation deposit was located along Excelsior Creek. • A culturally modified tree was also located. • At least 23 rock shelters occurred within the Bidjigal Reserve. • A midden previously found within a rock shelter in the Bidjigal Reserve was dated to 10,150 BP (Attenbrow 1993).
<p>Spurway Drive Development, Baulkham Hills, NSW – Aboriginal Heritage Assessment for Johnson Property Group (AHMS 2006)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located 1.8 kilometres west of the study area • No Aboriginal sites or objects were observed during survey, however was deemed ineffective as the effective survey coverage was less than 3% • Test excavation was recommended for areas of moderate or high archaeological potential including land within 100 metres of Strangers Creek
<p>Additional archaeological survey, Balmoral Road Release Area variations Indigenous Heritage (JMCHM 2002)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located 3.5 kilometres west of the study area • Survey found surface visibility to be low and the ground to be disturbed meaning a low likelihood of Aboriginal objects • No Aboriginal sites or objects were observed in surveyed areas
<p>Salvage of Excavation of Sites along Caddies, Second Ponds, Smalls and Cattai Creeks in the Rouse Hill Development Area, NSW: Volume 4: Plain English Report (JMCHM 2001)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located 2.4 kilometres northwest of the study area • Six sites were excavated within the Rouse Hill Development Area • A knapping floor was excavated at site RH/OC1, located near a small water hole which yielded 678 artefacts, predominantly silcrete. It was determined that majority of silcrete artefacts had been deposited at the same time • Site KV1 yielded 141 artefacts which were suggested to have been brought to the site to be worked, and then removed. Very little cortex was recorded on the recovered cores which suggests the lithic material to have been transported over longer distances to the site. • Site RH/SCT1 was located on the bank of a small creek and yielded 224 artefacts. Due to the low debitage count and high backed artefact and retouched & used tool count, it was determined that this was not a production site and was more likely a site of tool use. • Site RH/SP9 contained knapping floors and a previously recorded high-density area. 2,552 silcrete backed artefacts were recovered, all of which were less than 2.5cm long. Approximately 1.7 kilograms of silcrete was brought into the site, however it is not known if it was brought in as a single block or as multiple pieces or cores. Majority of artefacts were silicified tuff, followed by silcrete. It was suggested that due to the raw material used and the unusual morphology of the artefacts, that this may represent an early period of backed artefact production. A medium-high density scatter of artefacts comprised multiple knapping floors. The high number of quartz artefacts could indicate site occupation within the last 1,000 years. • Site RH/CD12 displayed occupation most likely occurring prior to the Bondaian technological phase in an area described as 'industrial' in scale with almost 200 stone tools having been recovered. This quantity may have been used for mass gatherings or for trade. • Site RH/CC2 is suggested to have been occupied from 10,000 BP to 4,000 BP. Silicified tuff was most likely sourced from the Nepean River with more recent occupation of the site preferring silcrete. Two large stone anvils suggest recurring occupation.

3.3 AHIMS search

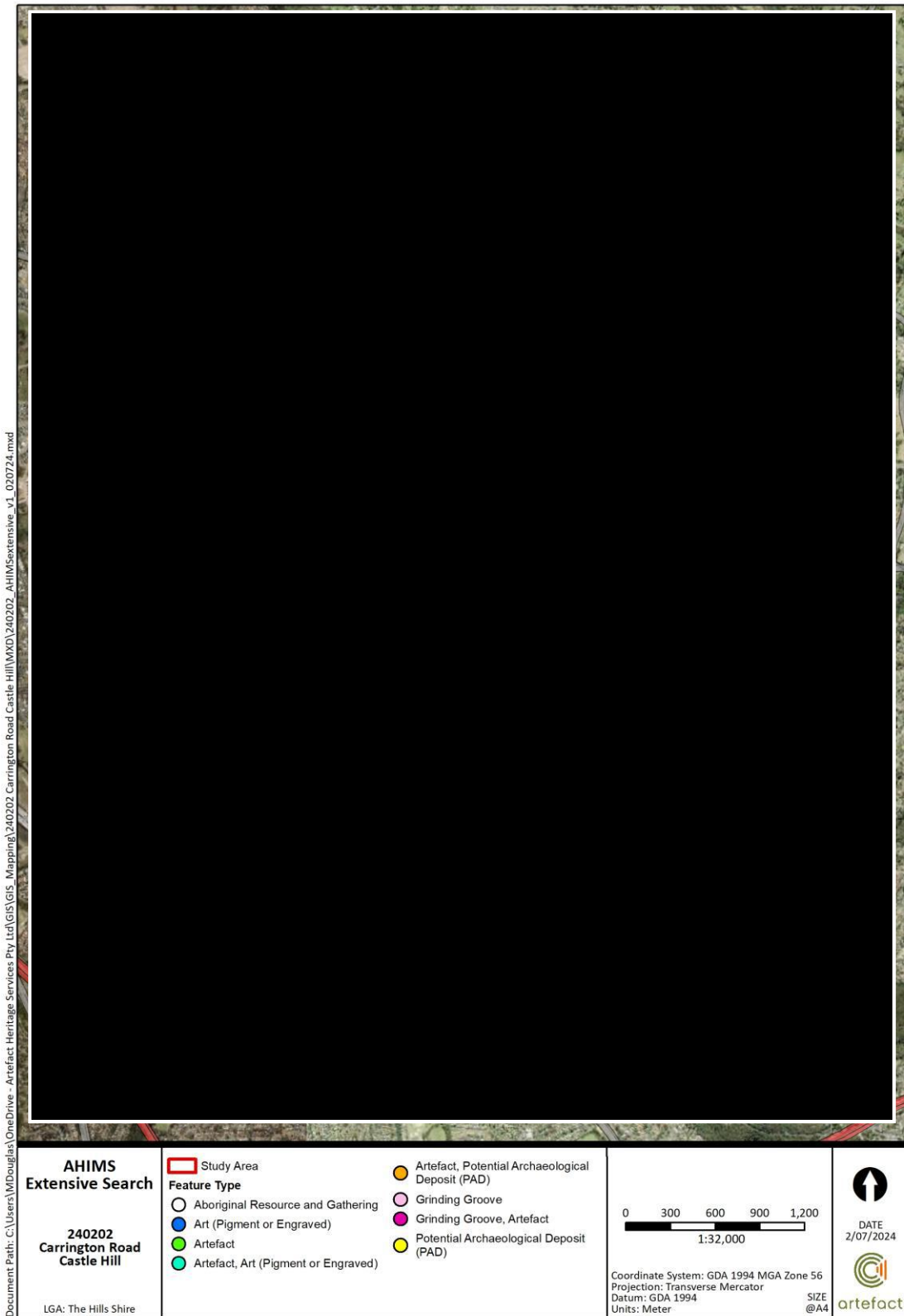
NOTE: The location of Aboriginal sites is considered culturally sensitive information. It is advised that this information, including the AHIMS data appearing on mapping below must be removed from this report if it is to enter the public domain.

An extensive search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) was undertaken on 2 July 2024 (Client Service ID: 54629) to determine the location of Aboriginal sites in relation to the current study area (Figure 2). The search area was defined as a 6km x 6km square centred on the study area to inform the characterisation of the local archaeological context. The AHIMS search parameters were as follows:

GDA1994, Zone 56	310667 – 316719 mE
	6263062 – 6269240 mN
Buffer	0
Number of sites	35

There were no AHIMS registered site located within the study area. The extensive search results revealed 35 registered AHIMS sites located within the search area. Stone artefact sites (n=16, approximately 46%) represent the greatest proportion of registered AHIMS sites within the search area.

Figure 2: AHIMS Extensive Search



3.4 Environmental background

The study area is within the Glenorie Soil Landscape, characterized by shallow to moderately deep Red Podzolic Soils on crests, and deeper Yellow and Gleyed Podzolic Soils along drainage lines. These soils are underlain by Wianamatta Group Ashfield Shale and Bringelly Shale formations, with a tendency for moderate sheet erosion in disturbed areas. The Glenorie landscape, which spans parts of Baulkham Hills, Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai, and Ryde, generally has low potential for the survival of cultural sites due to historical agricultural and residential land use, although artefact scatters may be found where remnant A1 horizons persist. The area is underlain by Ashfield Shale, which weathers into fine grain sandy silts and clays, with occasional ironstone lags as gravel components. The Ashfield Shale lies above the Hawkesbury Sandstone, which outcrops nearby, but no significant silcrete sources are mapped close to the study area.

The study area is located on the northwestern edge of a ridge, sitting just below 100m AHD, with gentle slopes leading down to Cattai Creek, approximately 300 meters to the west. This creek, a tributary of the Hawkesbury River, transitions from a slow-flowing linear reach upstream to an incised, steeply meandering channel with rocky pools downstream. The area's landforms are shaped by the underlying shales and sandstone, with the study area offering easy access to Cattai Creek via a low spur. Historically, as sea levels rose after the Last Glacial Maximum, Aboriginal populations may have migrated along major river systems like the Hawkesbury, which influenced site distribution, with a higher density of sites found near watercourses. The study area's proximity to these waterways and the broader landscape context suggest that it would have been part of a natural route linking higher ground to the floodplain lowlands, making it a potentially significant area for past Aboriginal activity.

The study area, previously agricultural land before its residential development, was historically used for orchards and market gardens. The land has undergone significant soil disturbance due to agricultural activities, clearing, and construction, which likely dispersed or eroded any Aboriginal objects present. Although the topography and land use history suggest a low probability of intact archaeological sites, the gentle slopes and shallow soils may still retain artefacts. The study area's position overlooking Cattai Creek and its valley indicates a low to moderate potential for pre-European archaeological sites, though the integrity of any remaining cultural items is likely to be low due to past disturbances.

Foundation Earth Sciences (FES) was engaged by Arada to provide geotechnical information for the proposal. It is concluded that based on the geotechnical data gathered:

- Depths reported for of Fill by FES (2024) can be expected to be primarily natural soil profiles with minimal truncation or deep disturbance
- The likely depth of natural soil broadly equivalent to depths logged for fill across the site and typically 400-500mm depth below surface level
- The expected phased disturbances from clearance, pre-WW2 horticulture and housing development (see above) are inferred to be minimal and very shallow (typically <200mm) based on geotechnical data from FES (2024)
- A1/A2 and B1 soil horizons may be preserved undisturbed in some portions of the study area

3.5 Predictive model

The Archaeological Technical Report (ATR) prepared to inform this ACHAR formulated the following predictive statements for the study area:

- Based on previous archaeological investigations in the Cumberland Plain, the study area's distance of at least 280 metres from a first order watercourse indicates low archaeological potential
- Site identification will rely on surface visibility, projected to be nil to low, based on analyses of both historical and contemporary aerial imagery
- The study area is anticipated to be disturbed, likely impacting the preservation of archaeological sites
- The survival of Aboriginal objects is contingent on the depth of disturbance from existing structures and associated infrastructure
- Vegetation clearance associated with extensive development is likely to impact the survival of mature native trees, yielding nil potential for Culturally Modified Trees, as observed in aerial imagery

4.0 SUMMARY OF FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

The archaeological survey of the study area was conducted by Josh Symons (Technical Executive, Artefact Heritage), Dr Samantha Higgs (Team Leader, Artefact Heritage), [REDACTED] Hector Aragones (Arada), and Joseph Alha (Arada).

The study area was divided into a single survey unit for archaeological assessment. A sample survey approach was used, with accessible areas inspected on foot and observations from the street for areas that could not be accessed. Due to the small size of each residential lot and the uniformity of landform and disturbance across the area, the sample survey approach was deemed appropriate. Photographic documentation was conducted, and a GPS tracked pedestrian movement.

During the survey, several lots were in the process of demolition, providing high surface visibility. Extensive landscaping and surface disturbances, such as swimming pools, introduced fill, and mixed soils, were observed across the surveyed properties. No Aboriginal lithic objects or culturally modified trees were identified. Properties that could not be accessed were observed from the public footpath, revealing similar landscaping and vegetation coverage. Overall, the survey indicated significant surface disturbance due to residential development, with only a few areas of possible natural soil remaining. Despite the excellent surface visibility in some areas, no Aboriginal objects were found.

[REDACTED] noted during the archaeological survey that he had no issues with the proposed development and that the study area appeared to be heavily disturbed.

5.0 CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUES

5.1 Methodology

The cultural assessment in this report includes information collected through desktop assessment and Aboriginal community consultation undertaken in accordance with the Consultation Requirements. This information was collected by Kieran Murray (Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Officer, Artefact Heritage).

5.1.1 Cultural landscape

The World Heritage Convention of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) defines a cultural landscape as one which has 'powerful religious, artistic or cultural associations of the natural element rather than material cultural evidence, which may be insignificant or even absent' (UNESCO 1991). The relationship between Aboriginal Australians and the land is conceived in spiritual terms rather than primarily in material terms (Andrews et al 2006). Aboriginal cultural knowledge has been defined as:

Accumulated knowledge which encompasses spiritual relationships, relationships with the natural environment and the sustainable use of natural resources, and relationships between people, which are reflected in language, narratives, social organisation, values, beliefs and cultural laws and custom (Andrews et al 2006).

Aboriginal cultural knowledge was traditionally bequeathed through oral traditions from generation to generation. Within all Aboriginal communities there was a time of dislocation and upheaval associated with the arrival of colonial settlers. This widespread disruption resulted in much of the detailed knowledge and understanding of many of the elements of the cultural landscape being lost from the Aboriginal community, nonetheless many Aboriginal people maintain a strong connection to the land of their ancestors and collectively possess a wealth of knowledge passed down through the generations.

5.1.2 Types of values

Aboriginal people hold significant knowledge about traditional use of land before and after contact. The landscape which encompasses the study area has cultural value of importance to the Aboriginal community. The Aboriginal community collectively holds values and knowledge that relate to:

- Traditional values: these are passed down by family and community as part of ancient tradition.
- Historical values: these are passed down by family and community and relate to the eras since colonisation; these may include information gained from historical source documents.
- Contemporary values: these are values of modern importance and relevance for Aboriginal stakeholder groups.

There is often no clear separation between these values, and they collectively co-exist with equal importance in forming the value that Aboriginal people place on landscape, cultural heritage, intangible heritage, and particular landforms or parts of the landscape.

5.2 Identified Aboriginal cultural heritage values

Table 5 provides a summary of the Aboriginal cultural heritage values associated with the study area.

Table 5: Cultural heritage values identified for the study and surroundings

Cultural heritage value	Description	Source
Dharug people	The Dharug people are the traditional custodians of the land which the study area is situated on. Local groups include the Bediagal/ Bidjigal and the Cattai. Dharug people today have an ongoing connection to the Country and especially its waterways including Parramatta River, Wianamatta (South Creek), Dyarubbin (Hawkesbury River). The Bidjigal People were likely one of the major groups involved in resistance to invasion in this area in the 1790s.	ATR Connecting with Country Report
The Cattai Creek	Cattai Creek flows into Cabawn Cattie (Big Cattai Creek) and into the Dyarrubin (Hawkesbury River). It is part of an important network of rivers and tributaries on northwestern Dharug Country. Cattai Creek would have been an important site for collecting water and gathering food.	ATR
Sites	Aboriginal heritage sites around the area of Castle Hill include rock shelters, scar trees, grinding grooves and artwork. A nearby grinding groove site along Cattai Creek may have been used for grinding seeds for food, grinding a vegetable like flour to make bread and damper, sharpening tools for removing the fur from animals, hunting and butchering.	ATR
Aesthetic	The development sits on a terrace landform and steep slope/hill next to the natural creek line. It is noted that this landscape would be perfect for camping up on the hill with elevation and good views around, while being also close to the creek and a food source. Aunty Vicky Slater stated within the Connecting to Country Report for the project that "You could imagine where they camped and fished, and the elevation of the landscape being a higher place to see enemies and other tribes approaching".	Aunty Vicky Slater Connecting with Country Report

5.3 Aboriginal cultural values within the study area

Scientific studies have demonstrated that Aboriginal people have lived in the area for tens of thousands of years, while many Aboriginal people themselves say they have been living on country since 'time immemorial'. Waterways such as the nearby Cattai Creek and other waterways such as South Creek, the Parramatta River, and the Hawkesbury River contain an abundance of Aboriginal sites such as rock shelters, grinding grooves, and scar trees. This abundance in Aboriginal material culture showcases the critical nature and reliance on the waterways as a source of food and resources by Aboriginal people. The study area exists on an elevated landscape near the Cattai Creek and may have provided ideal locations for the Darug people to camp and live.

6.0 SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

A significance assessment of the scientific, social, historic and aesthetic values of the study area is included below.

6.1 Significance assessment criteria

An assessment of the cultural heritage significance of an item or place is required in order to form the basis of its management. The Guide (OEH 2011: 10) provides guidelines, in accordance with the Burra Charter (Australia ICOMOS 2013) for significance assessment with assessments being required to consider the following criteria:

- Social values – does the area have a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons
- Historic values – is the area important to the cultural or natural history of the local area and/or region and/or state
- Scientific values - does the area have the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the cultural and natural history of the local area and/or region and/or state
- Aesthetic values – is the area important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics in the local area and/or region and/or state.

Scientific values should be considered in light of the following criteria:

- 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.

6.1.1 Historic value

Historic values refer to the association of place with aspects of Aboriginal history. Historic values are not necessarily reflected in physical objects, but may be intangible and relate to memories, stories or experiences.

The Bidjigal people frequented the areas around and most likely including the study area. The Bidjigal People were likely one of the major groups involved in resistance to invasion in this area in the 1790s. No specific historic values have been identified within the study area.

6.1.2 Aesthetic value

Aesthetic values refer to the sensory, scenic, architectural and creative aspects of a place. These values may be related to the landscape and are often closely associated with socio/cultural values.

Aunty Vicky Slater explained in the Connecting with Country report that the landform and nearby terrace and steep slope/hill next to the natural creek line is significant as it would have been perfect for camping up on the hill with elevation and good views around, while being also close to the creek and a food source.

6.1.3 Socio/cultural value

Socio/cultural heritage values should be addressed by Aboriginal people who have a connection to, or an interest in, the area.

No specific socio/cultural values have been identified within the study area.

6.1.4 Scientific value

No Aboriginal objects nor areas of Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) were identified through archaeological survey, and the study area has been assessed as unlikely to contain Aboriginal objects. [REDACTED] noted during the archaeological survey that the study area appeared to be heavily disturbed. Therefore, the study area contains no scientific value.

6.2 Statement of significance

The study area has been significantly disturbed through agricultural development, followed by the construction of residential development, and no Aboriginal sites or potential for Aboriginal objects have been identified within the study area. Based on this disturbance, the study area is unlikely to possess any Aboriginal cultural heritage significance.

7.0 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Proposed works

Arada Management Services are proposing residential development for the property known as 2 Fishburn Crescent, Castle Hill, legally described as Lot 1 DP 1316896. The development will provide approximately 431 new apartments across 3 buildings with shared communal facilities, rooftop terraces and landscaping.

7.2 Aboriginal heritage impact

No Aboriginal sites have been identified within the study area and therefore there will be no impacts to Aboriginal objects through the proposed works.

7.3 Ecological Sustainable Development principles

The Guide (OEH 2011) specifies that Ecological Sustainable Development (ESD) principles must be considered when assessing harm and recommending mitigation measures in relation to Aboriginal objects.

The following relevant ESD principles are outlined in Section 3A of the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*:

- Decision-making processes should effectively integrate both long term and short term economic, environmental, social and equitable considerations (the 'integration principle')
- If there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation (the 'precautionary principle')
- The present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations (the 'principle of intergenerational equity').
- The integration principle

Decision making processes should effectively integrate both long term and short term economic, environmental, social and equitable considerations (the 'integration principle'). The preparation of this ACHAR demonstrates regard for the integration principle by considering Aboriginal heritage values and impacts to these from the proposal during the planning phase. The nature of the proposal is in itself one that contributes to the long term economic and social needs of current and future residents of the area.

7.3.1 The precautionary principle

It was determined within the ATR, prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice, that no Aboriginal sites of potential for Aboriginal objects were found within the study area.

7.3.2 The principle of intergenerational equity

The proposed works would adhere, as close as possible, to the principle of intergenerational equity by collating scientific and cultural information on former Aboriginal occupation of the study area through the previous investigations and this ACHAR. The ATR prepared an assessment of the study area and synthesised the regional character of Aboriginal objects and sites for posterity and future generations.

7.4 Cumulative impacts

A cumulative impact is an impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage resulting from the incremental impact of the action/s of a development when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

8.0 MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES

8.1 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 measures such as comprehensive salvage excavations in accordance with the SSD Conditions of Approval would be required.

8.2 Proposed measures

This report has determined that Aboriginal objects are unlikely to be present within the study area. As such, no mitigation measures are proposed. Any unexpected Aboriginal objects encountered during the development would be managed under an Unexpected Finds Procedure (UFP).

The UFP would provide guidance on further assessment, consultation and approvals which may be required in the event that any Aboriginal sites, objects or archaeological deposits are unexpectedly encountered during construction.

It is recommended that an Aboriginal heritage induction be prepared and provided to contractors working on the project. The induction should include summaries of the Aboriginal background of the site, legislation and the UFP.

8.3 Changes to the project area

Advice provided within this ACHAR is based upon the most recent information provided by the proponent at the time of writing. Any additions made to the project area 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.

9.0 CONCLUSION

9.1 Overview of findings

This assessment found that:

- There are no AHIMS sites within the study area or its vicinity
- The study area has been subjected to previous disturbance through the historical development impacts across the study area
- No Aboriginal objects or areas of archaeological potential were identified during an archaeological survey conducted as part of the assessment
- No specific cultural heritage values were found to be associated with the study area
- The proposed development is unlikely to result in any impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage

9.2 Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- No further Aboriginal heritage assessment or investigations are required, and the proposed works can proceed with caution
 - An Unexpected Finds Procedure be prepared prior to the commencement of works
 - To support the Unexpected Finds Procedure consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties should be maintained
- A Heritage Induction should be prepared and all; workers should be inducted to understand their obligations under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* in relation to Aboriginal Heritage
- If changes are made to the proposal that may result in impact to areas not assessed by this report, further assessment may be required

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APPENDIX A – ARCHAEOLOGICAL TECHNICAL REPORT

APPENDIX B – CONSULTATION RECORDS



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