



JOHN HUNTER HEALTH AND INNOVATION PRECINCT

Heritage Impact Statement

FINAL

Prepared by
Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited
on behalf of
NSW Health Infrastructure

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Overview

In June 2019, the NSW Government announced a significant expansion of the John Hunter and John Hunter Children's Hospitals with the \$780 million John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct (JHHIP) project.

The JHHIP will transform healthcare services for Newcastle, the greater Hunter region and northern NSW communities. The infrastructure will provide additional inpatient capacity to the John Hunter and John Hunter Children's Hospitals and create further opportunities for partnerships with industry and higher education providers.

The JHHIP will deliver an innovative and integrated precinct with industry-leading facilities working in collaboration with health, education and research partners to meet the current and future needs of the Greater Newcastle, Hunter New England and Northern NSW regions.

The John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct Project is being planned and designed with ongoing communication and engagement with clinical staff, operational staff, the community and other key stakeholders with a strong focus on the following:

- Patient-centred care
- Contemporary models of care
- Future economic, health and innovation development opportunities
- Environmental sustainability

1.2 Subject Site

The John Hunter Health Campus (JHHC) is located on Lookout Road, Lambton Heights, within the City of Newcastle Local Government Area (LGA), approximately 8km west of the Newcastle CBD. The hospital campus is located approximately 3.5km north of Kotara railway station.

The JHHC comprises the John Hunter Hospital (JHH), John Hunter Children's Hospital (JHCH), Royal Newcastle Centre (RNC), the Rankin Park Rehabilitation Unit and the Nexus Unit (Children & Adolescent Mental Health). JHHC is a Level 6 Principal Referral and tertiary Hospital, providing the clinical hub for medical, surgical, child and maternity services within the Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD) and across northern NSW through established referral networks. Other services at the campus include the Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI), Newcastle Private Hospital and the HNELHD Headquarters.



1.3 SSDA Proposal

Approval is being sought for a new Acute Services Building and refurbishment of existing hospital facilities at John Hunter Hospital comprising:

- Construction and operation of a new seven-storey Acute Services Building (plus 4 semi-basement levels) to provide:
 - o an expanded and enhanced Emergency Department;
 - expanded and enhanced medical imaging services;
 - o expanded and enhanced intensive care services Adult, Paediatric and Neonatal;
 - expanded and enhanced Operating Theatres including Interventional Suites;
 - an expanded Clinical Sterilising Department;
 - Women's Services including Birthing Unit, Day Assessment Unit and Inpatient Units;
 - o integrated flexible education and teaching spaces;
 - expanded support services;
 - associated retail spaces;
 - new rooftop helipads;
 - o new semi-basement car parking;
- Refurbishment of existing buildings to provide:
 - o additional Inpatient Units;
 - expanded support services;
- A new Hospital entry canopy and works to the existing drop off;
- Link bridge to the Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI);
- Campus wayfinding and signage;
- Landscape works;
- Site preparation including bulk earthworks, tree removal, environmental clearing, cut and fill;
- Mines grouting remediation works;
- Construction of internal roads network and construction access roads and works to existing at-grade carparking;
- Connection to the future Newcastle Inner City Bypass; and
- Inground building services works and utility adjustments.



1.4 Objectives of this Assessment

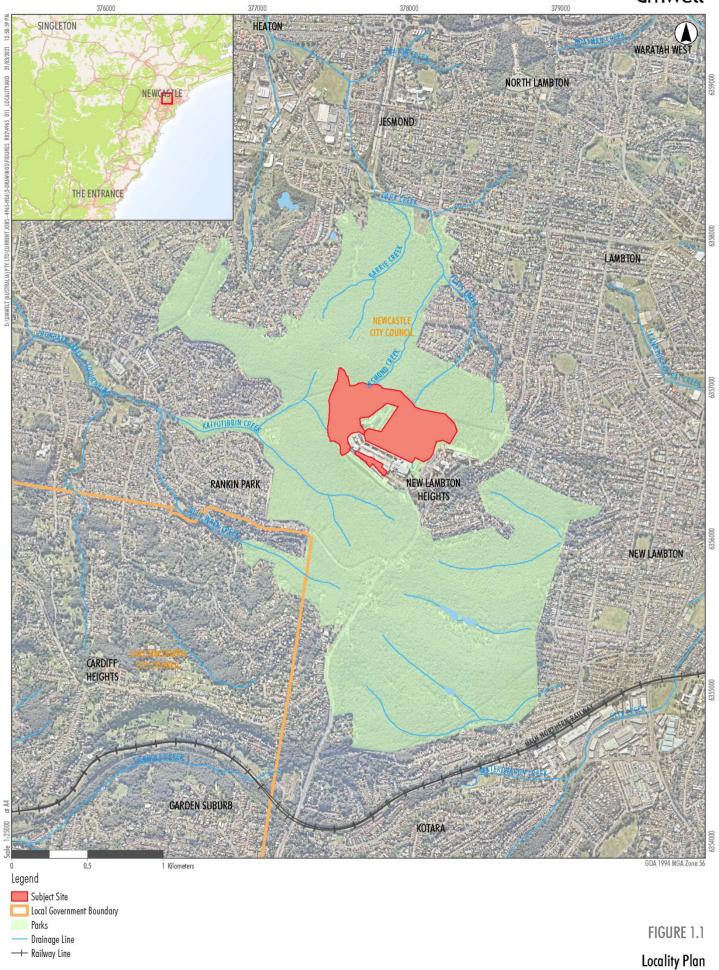
The purpose of this assessment is to assess the potential historical heritage impacts of the JHHIP Project on the recognised heritage significance of the subject site. The ways in which this assessment addresses the relevant SEARs requirements is outlined in (**Table 1.1**).

For assessment of Aboriginal archaeology and cultural heritage, refer to separate Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report.

Table 1.1 Table outlining where SEARs requirements are addressed

SEARs Requirement	Relevant Sections
9.0 Heritage	
Provide a Statement of Heritage Impact (SOHI) prepared by a suitably qualified heritage consultant in accordance with the guidelines in the NSW Heritage Manual (Heritage Office and DUAP, 1996) and Assessing Heritage Significance (OEH, 2015). The SOHI is to address the impacts of the proposal on the heritage significance of the site and adjacent areas and is to identify:	This report has been prepared to fulfil this requirement.
• all heritage items (State and local) within the vicinity of the site including built heritage, landscapes and archaeology, detailed mapping of these items, and assessment of why the items and site(s) are of heritage significance	All heritage items are listed in Section 2.0.
• compliance with the relevant Conservation Management Plan (CMP)	Not relevant, as there are no CMPs applicable to the subject site or any of the local heritage items that are relevant to the JHHIP project.
• the impacts of the proposal on heritage item(s) including visual impacts	The potential impacts of the proposal, including visual impacts, are assessed as Section 4.0 .
the attempts to avoid and/or mitigate the impact on the heritage significance or cultural heritage values of the site and the surrounding heritage items	Based on the results at Section 4.0 , no mitigation measures have been recommended. Standard unexpected finds procedures, in accordance with best practice, have been recommended at Section 5.1 .
• justification for any changes to the heritage fabric or landscape elements including any options analysis impact on potential historical archaeology.	The potential impacts of the proposal, including archaeological impacts, are assessed as Section 4.0 . No adverse impacts have been identified.







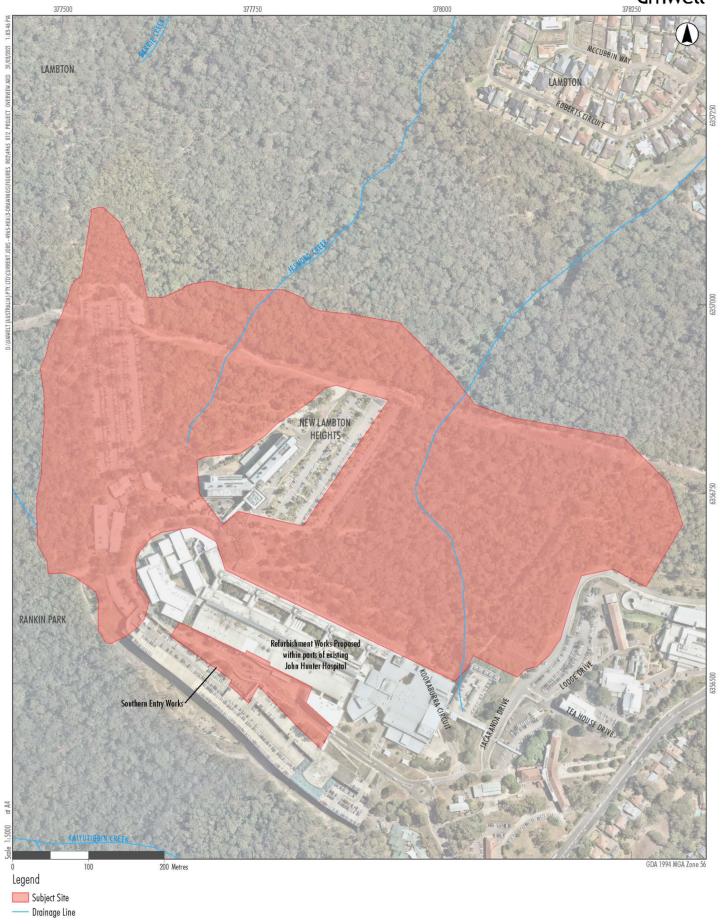


FIGURE 1.2

Project Overview



2.0 Relevant Heritage Listings

The subject site is located partially within a locally listed heritage item, being the 'Rankin Park Hospital'. Two locally listed heritage items, being 'Croudace House' and 'Remnant garden – Croudace House' are located in the immediate vicinity, but outside of, the subject site. These three listed items are summarised in (**Table 2.1**) below and shown in (**Figure 2.1**).

Table 2.1 Heritage listings associated with the subject site

Listing	Location	Description	Significance
Rankin Park Hospital Item ID I356	2 Lookout Road Falls partially within the subject site.	Predominantly two storey long horizontal building with rounded corners at the wing ends. Metal framed windows with "ribbon" style emphasizing the buildings horizontality. Columns are not emphasized and are between the glazing panels. Long horizontal spandrels dividing floor levels. Hipped roof with terra cotta tiling over main building structure. The curtilage of this listing, as shown in Figure 2.1, extends well outside of the footprint of the building of significance, though no justification for this is provided in the relevant listing.	Played an important role in the development of health care facilities in the Hunter and continues in this role. Unusual architectural style in a prominent location.



Listing	Location	Description	Significance
Croudace House Item ID 1358	20 Lookout Road Located outside but in immediate proximity to the subject site.	Two storey smooth textured and painted cement rendered building with a variety of window styles. Flat arched and segmental arches along with round arched windows to the turret. Long masonry sills enhance the window openings. Roof structure is made up of a variety of hipped roof elements and attic with a half-hipped roof facing street frontage. The polygonal turret has a slight ogee shaped roof line with a decorative metal ornament at the apex.	The surviving Croudace House is locally significant for its associations with an important local citizen Thomas Croudace, who served as Mayor of Lambton Council three times and was instrumental in forming Lambton Park and the School of Arts. It has local historic significance for its associations with the Scottish Australian Mining Company who are connected with the development of the Lambton and New Lambton townships, and is an example of a large house built in 1863 and remodelled in 1878/9. The house is locally important as it is associated with early mining activities in the area and the coal mining activity that provided jobs and enabled residential and economic development of New Lambton. At the local level the house, now part of the Newcastle Private Hospital facility, is representative of the preference of senior mining executives to live on the job in company houses. These houses were company show pieces and indicated the hierarchies that existed in the mining companies and the importance of the staff who lived in them. The house is also evidence of the early use of larger buildings for health care services during the 20th century. Interiors of interest.
Remnant garden— Croudace House Item ID I357	2, 14 and 20 Lookout Road Located outside but in immediate proximity to the subject site.	Many remnant older trees and shrubs as part of Croudace and early hospital landscape. Plants include Australian Red Cedar, Brazilian Peppercorn Tree, Bunya Pine and Tuckeroos.	Of historical, aesthetic, social and horticultural botany value within the Newcastle area. Association with Thomas Croudace and the early 20th century development of hospitals in Newcastle.

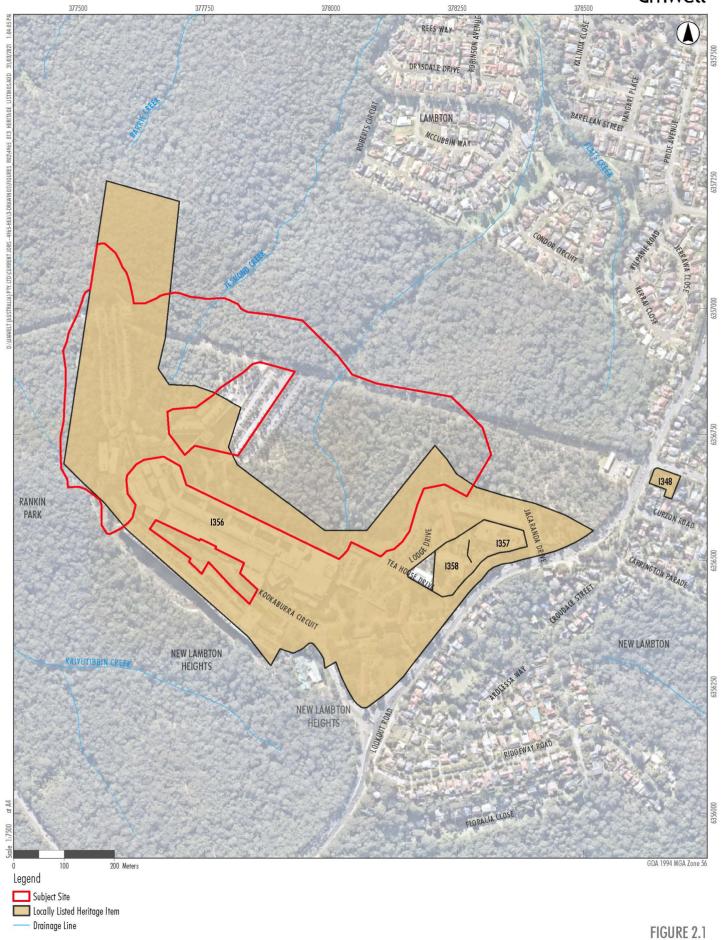
In addition to this, the original Rankin Park Hospital buildings are also listed on the NSW Department of Education¹ and NSW Health² s170 Heritage and Conservation Registers. These listings pertain specifically to the original Rankin Park Hospital buildings and associated gardens, and do not appear to apply to the remainder of the subject site.

As no changes are proposed to these buildings or their immediate setting, these listings are not considered in the remainder of this report. Curtilages are not specified in either of these listings; as such, these two listings are not depicted in (**Figure 2.1**).

¹ https://apps.environment.nsw.gov.au/dpcheritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5065635

² https://apps.environment.nsw.gov.au/dpcheritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=3540133





Heritage Listings in relation to the Subject Site



3.0 Historical Overview

The following historical overview considers Croudace House, as well as the original Rankin Park Hospital and the later John Hunter Hospital. It is noted that the JHHIP Project will involve physical works within areas that are not known to have previously contained buildings or elements of heritage significance (with the identified heritage significance of the subject site being exclusively associated with Croudace House and the Rankin Park Hospital). The history for Croudace House and gardens has been largely sourced from HLA (1998).

3.1 Croudace House and Gardens

Croudace House is believed to have been constructed in 1863 as a residence for Thomas Croudace, Manager of the Lambton Mine for the Scottish Australian Mining Company (**Plate 3.1**). There is no evidence in the historical record to suggest that any other development had occurred at or in the vicinity of the site of Croudace House prior to 1863.

Despite being only 23 when he arrived in Newcastle in 1862, Croudace had previous experience in mining and had served an apprenticeship in engineering under among others Robert Stephenson. Croudace remained manager of the Scottish Australian Mining Company until his death in 1906. Croudace was well known and respected as a mining engineer and was involved in several mining disasters leading rescue teams and inspecting the workings and providing professional advice.

Little is known of the history of Croudace House and the associated gardens. It appears that major rebuilding occurred in 1877/1878 as mine subsidence caused major structural damage. Croudace also felt that the residence as it was at that time was too small for his family. Croudace had a large family of eight children. His two eldest sons Frank and Sydney also became managers with the Scottish Australian Mining Company.



Plate 3.1 Historical photograph of Croudace House, unknown date

 $@\ https://newcastle-collections.ncc.nsw.gov.au/library?page=search\&record=ecatalogue.35120\#id=ee9ff.pdf.$



In 1923 the Newcastle Hospital Board purchased Croudace House and occupied it in 1926 when it was converted into a convalescent home. Frank Croudace, who by that time had inherited the house, moved his family into 'The Gables' a new house constructed for the Mine Manager at Redhead.

Thomas Croudace was an important individual as apart from his duties as mine manager he was active as a member of the Lambton Council and was elected mayor three times. Croudace House seems to have been at least partly his design. The tower appears to have been designed to give Croudace a view of the Lambton mine as well as of the wider landscape. Its prominent position would have made the manager's house visible from the works as well; the house therefore would have been an important symbol to the workers and the broader community.

According to the research by undertaken by John Carr, the gardens of Croudace House were 'simple, symmetrically laid out, to a centre line drawn through the building down the terraced steps'. It is likely that the existing Kingston Building (2004) and Newcastle Private Hospital extension (2017) constructed on the terraces and to the northeast of Croudace House has at least partly destroyed evidence of these gardens. It is not at all clear how the existing garden layout differs from that in use at Croudace's time (**Plate 3.2**).



Plate 3.2 Historical photograph of Croudace House and associated gardens, date unknown © https://newcastle-collections.ncc.nsw.gov.au/library?page=search&record=ecatalogue.34771#id=b514

To the immediate east of Croudace House there is a discrete area of landscaped garden with walls and paving. A sundial identifies this as being a memorial to Sisters Blanche and Creswick dated 22 April 1946. From the appearance of this memorial, it appears that the current walling and gardens in this area date from the same period, presumably c. 1946.

Taken as a whole, Croudace's house and garden would have been an important way for Croudace to express his social status as a respectable professional and civic minded community member. The positioning of the house and garden would have made a statement to both the miners and the adjoining community about both the Croudace and the Scottish Australian Mining company his employer.



3.2 Rankin Park Hospital

Rankin Park Hospital was initially constructed in 1942, at which time it was known as the 'Chest Hospital'. As originally constructed, the hospital was intended to function as a 'precautionary' or emergency hospital for the treatment of anticipated injuries sustained in association with the threat of Japanese invasion (*Newcastle Morning Herald and Miner's Advocate*, 12 Jun 1947, p. 2).

In April 1947 the hospital's name was changed from 'The Chest Hospital' to 'Rankin Park Hospital', after the chairman of Newcastle Hospital Board Mr. A. A. Rankin (*The Newcastle Sun*, 2 Apr 1947, p. 8). The name change arose after it was acknowledged that the name 'The Chest Hospital' was being used without any official approval. The name was described as undesirable and too suggestive (*The Newcastle Sun*, 2 Apr 1947, p. 8).

In June of that year, the newly re-named Rankin Park Hospital had formally been taken over by the Newcastle Hospital Board and was accepting its first patients (*Newcastle Morning Herald and Miner's Advocate*, 12 Jun 1947, p. 2). At this time, the hospital was descried as comprising 220 acres of forest land, with accommodation for 104 patients. Intentions at that time were to erect dwellings for *'convalescents who will live under medical supervision but away from the hospital'*, vocational centres and a training hall, and a separate building to accommodate nurses and staff (*Newcastle Morning Herald and Miner's Advocate*, 12 Jun 1947, p. 2). These works were supported by the Royal Newcastle Hospital Board in 1953 (*The Newcastle Sun*, 8 Jul 1953, p.5).

The Rankin Park Hospital was constructed in proximity to Croudace House, on the eastern side of the subject site. This is shown in the historical photographs below (**Plate 3.3, 3.4, 3.5**).

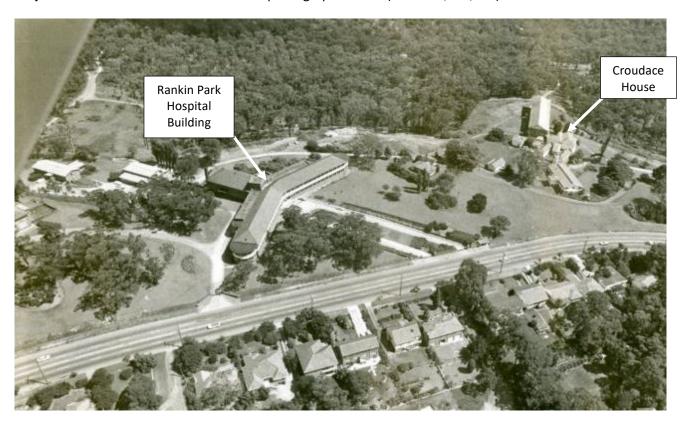


Plate 3.3 Aerial view of Rankin Park Hospital, unknown date

Croudace House and the original Rankin Park Hospital building are visible, along with other buildings present on the hospital grounds at that time

© https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/6300901583/in/photostream/





Plate 3.4 Historical aerial of Rankin Park Hospital, 1950

© Hunter Photo Bank, Accession Number: 104 001431

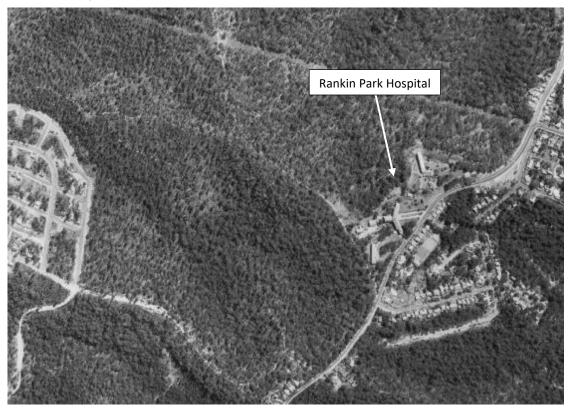


Plate 3.5 Aerial view of Rankin Park Hospital, 1966, showing undeveloped land to the west © https://portal.spatial.nsw.gov.au/download/historic/1464/1464_4N_211.jp2.jpeg



3.3 John Hunter Hospital

The John Hunter Hospital was opened in 1991. Construction of the buildings commenced c. 1986, with the new buildings being located to the west of Croudace House and the Rankin Park Hospital. The construction of the hospital required considerable earthworks, as demonstrated in the historical photographs below (**Plate 3.6** to **3.10**). The buildings were constructed to respond to the topography, with steep slopes present to the north and south of the new hospital.



Plate 3.6 View of the construction of John Hunter Hospital, c. 1986

© https://newcastle-collections.ncc.nsw.gov.au/library?record=ecatalogue.37870

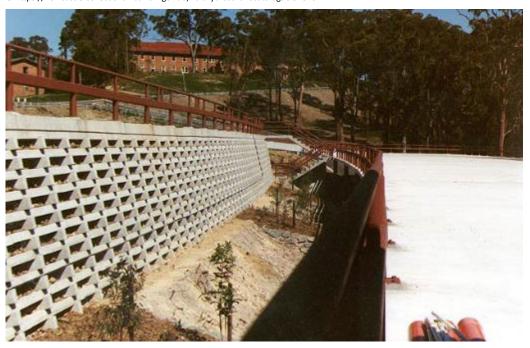


Plate 3.7 View of the construction of John Hunter Hospital, c. 1986, showing the underlying topography © https://newcastle-collections.ncc.nsw.gov.au/library?record=ecatalogue.37872





Plate 3.8 View of the construction of John Hunter Hospital, c. 1986

 $@\ https://newcastle-collections.ncc.nsw.gov.au/library?record=ecatalogue.37838$

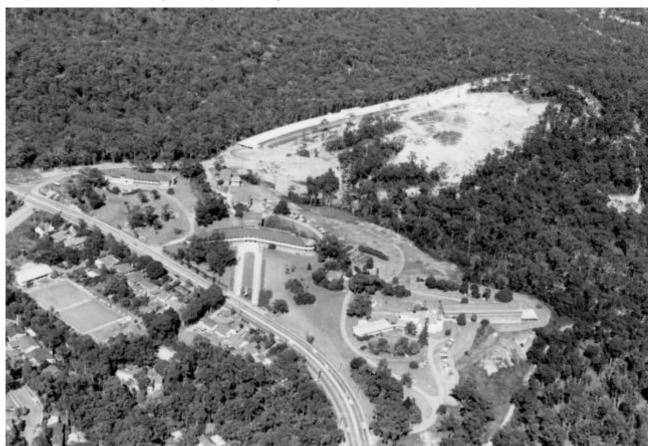


Plate 3.9 Construction of the John Hunter Hospital in the 1980s

The physical separation between the new hospital and the existing Ranking Park Hospital is visible © https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon/5037815883/in/photostream/





Plate 3.10 View of the John Hunter Hospital building during construction, 1980s

© https://www.flickr.com/photos/8571926@N06/5070596418



4.0 Impact Assessment

This section of the HIS outlines the visual inspection of the subject site that was undertaken to inform this assessment. Based on the background information presented at (**Sections 2.0** and **3.0**) of this report, as well as the results of the visual inspection, an assessment of historical heritage impacts associated with the JHHIP Project has been undertaken. This impact assessment also includes a baseline historical archaeological assessment.

4.1 Results of the Visual Inspection

A visual inspection of the subject site was undertaken on 28 September 2020. This visual inspection focused on the areas of proposed works, as well as on the inspection of views to the areas of proposed works from buildings of identified heritage significance. With regard to the areas of proposed works, the visual inspection confirmed that the proposed works will not occur in direct association with any buildings or fabric of known or potential heritage significance, all of which are located within a discrete area within the subject site (being the area shown in red in (**Plate 4.1** below).

The works that will occur closest to the area of identified significance are earthworks and the construction of a proposed road, which will occur to the immediate north of the area of identified historical heritage significance.

The visual inspection confirmed that the substantial difference in the ground surface level between the area of identified historical heritage significance and the area of proposed road construction to the immediate north means that the two areas are physically and visually separate. This is demonstrated in (Plate 4.2) below. All buildings of significance are located on the elevated land located to the south of the proposed road works (Plate 4.3). The two areas are also separated by a roadway, as shown in (Plate 4.2) below.

The visual inspection also confirmed that there is a high degree of visual and physical separation between the area of identified heritage significance and the proposed new ASB. This is demonstrated by the below photographs (**Plate 4.4** to **Plate 4.5**). Further to this, the ASB will be constructed in the immediate vicinity of buildings constructed from the 1990s onwards; none of these buildings or their associated fabric is of historical heritage significance. The proposed works will occur either within a developed and therefore highly disturbed area to the south of the JHH building (i.e., the Southern Entry Works), and in associated with steeply sloping undeveloped land to the north of the JHH building (i.e., the new ASB).

The visual inspection also confirmed that the new ASB will be visible from the area of identified heritage significance. However, this visibility is tempered by the presence of the existing JHH building to the immediate south of the proposed new ASB footprint, as the presence of this building and its associated car parking areas has already significantly altered the context of the area of identified heritage significance and any views from this area to the west (**Plate 4.6**).

Moreover, a number of new buildings have also been constructed within the area of identified heritage significance, which has also eroded the integrity of this area and compromised original viewlines from the significant buildings contained therein (**Plate 4.7** and **Plate 4.8**).

An overview of photograph locations and direction is provided at **Plate 4.9**.



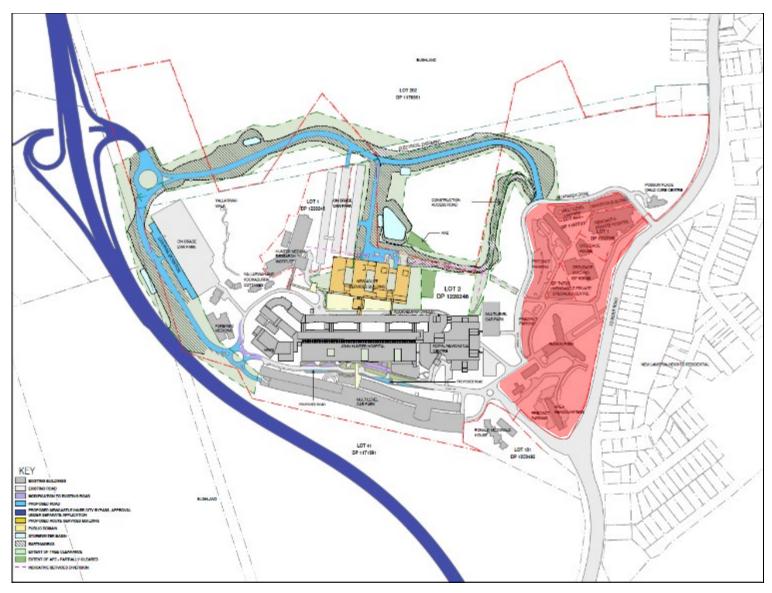


Plate 4.1 Proposed works plan showing the area of identified historical heritage significance in red © BVN 2021





Plate 4.2 View 1 - level difference between the area of proposed works (right of frame) and the area of identified historical heritage significance on elevated land (left of frame), facing west



Plate 4.3 View 2 -limited visibility of buildings of identified significance from the roadway below, taken from the area where a new road and earthworks are proposed, facing south



© Umwelt, 2020



Plate 4.4 View 3 - where the arrival canopy of the new Southern Entry will be located (linking the existing walkway to the principal elevation of the JHH building), facing west

© Umwelt, 2020



Plate 4.5 View 4 - view of the location of the proposed new ASB to the rear (north) of the existing JHH building, facing west and showing the steep topography © Umwelt, 2020





Plate 4.6 View 5 - existing views from the area of identified heritage significance, facing west towards the existing JHH building and the proposed location of the new ASB

© Umwelt, 2020



Plate 4.7 View 6 - contemporary buildings (Newcastle Private Specialist Centre, left of frame) within the area of identified heritage significance

The original Rankin Park Hospital building is visible to the right of the newer building @ Umwelt, 2020





Plate 4.8 View of contemporary buildings (left of frame) within the area of identified heritage significance

The original Rankin Park Hospital building is visible to the right of the newer building

© Umwelt, 2020

4.2 Heritage Impact Assessment

Based on the visual inspection results detailed above, the JHHIP Project will not result in any physical impacts to any buildings or elements of identified heritage significance. The works will occur outside of the area of identified heritage significance (refer to **Plate 4.1**). The new ASB will be constructed in association with the JHH building, which was constructed in the late 1980s and opened in 1991 and has no identified heritage significance. The majority of the ASB will be constructed on undeveloped land to the north of the JHH building. The Southern Entry Works will be constructed in association with the existing JHH building, which has no identified heritage significance.

The JHHIP Project will therefore not result in physical impacts to buildings/elements of identified heritage significance, or to the overall heritage significance of the subject site.

With regards to visual impacts, it is acknowledged that the proposed new ASB will have some level of visibility from buildings/elements of identified heritage significance (as demonstrated in **Plate 4.6**). The proposed ASB will be three storeys higher (plus roof top plant) than the existing JHH building to the immediate south and will therefore have a greater degree of visibility than the existing JHH building from the area of identified heritage significance (refer to **Plate 4.10**, which provides an elevation image of the existing and new buildings, facing west from the buildings of identified significance). **Plate 4.10** should be viewed with consideration of (**Plate 4.6**).





Plate 4.9 Overview of photograph locations/directions

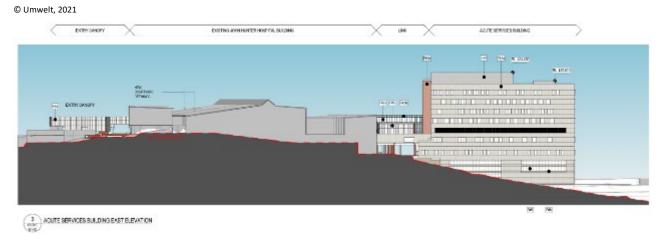


Plate 4.10 Elevation view of the proposed new ASB (right of image) in relation to the existing JHH building (left of image) showing the comparative scale

© BVN 2021



However, and as noted in (**Section 4.1**), the setting of the buildings/elements of significance has already been compromised by more recent development, including the JHH building, the Kingston Building, Newcastle Private Hospital extension and the Newcastle Private Specialist Centre. The presence of these buildings has already significantly reduced the integrity of views to and from the buildings/elements of identified significance and have obscured their original setting and context.

Because of this, the proposed new ASB, whilst being visible within views from buildings/elements of significance, will not result in any greater adverse visual impacts than existing development already has. Given the distance between the ASB and the area of identified heritage significance, as well as the underlying topography, the proposed new building will not obscure or compromise any existing views to buildings/elements of identified significance.

The detailed design and materiality of all proposed new components is appropriate to the context and the nature of development. As outlined above, the proposed new ASB will be visible within distant views from buildings/elements of significance, but this visibility will not result in any adverse visual impacts. The nature of the views (being distant) means that the materiality and detailed design of the ASB will be appropriate to the context and will not detract or obscure the immediate visual setting or established aesthetic significance of building/elements of heritage value.

As all earthworks and roadworks will ultimately have an at-grade visual presentation, they will not result in any visual impacts to the area of identified heritage significance or buildings/elements contained therein. The change in level between the area of identified heritage significance and the proposed new road mean that the proposed new road will have almost nil visibility from the buildings/elements of identified significance.

Ultimately, the JHHIP Project will result in the introduction of a building and associated road network that is in keeping with the increasingly contemporary character of the subject site. The physical and visual separation between the proposed works and the area of identified heritage significance means that the JHHIP Project will not discernibly alter or adversely impact the aesthetic presentation of buildings/elements of identified heritage significance or their setting, which has already been compromised by contemporary development.

The visual impacts of the JHHIP Project on the overall heritage significance of the subject site are therefore assessed as negligible.

4.3 Baseline Historical Archaeological Assessment

As noted throughout this report, there is no historical evidence that the areas of proposed works were subject to development in the past. No structures or other elements are known to have been present within the areas of proposed works prior to the development of Croudace House in 1860, or the construction of the Rankin Park Hospital in the early 1940s. Land in the vicinity of the Rankin Park Hospital is shown to be vegetated (not cleared) and devoid of structures until the construction of the JHH building in 1990 (refer to **Plate 3.5** and **Plate 3.9**).

Further, the steepness of the land to the north of the JHH building, and where the majority of earthworks and construction works are proposed is likely to have made it unfavourable for development or occupation; this further limits the potential for an unrecorded structures or buildings to have been present in this area.

Based on the above, the historical archaeological potential of the proposed works areas of the JHHIP Project is assessed as low.



5.0 Conclusion

Based on the assessment presented in this report, it is assessed that the JHHIP Project will not result in any physical impacts to buildings/structures of identified heritage significance, or to the overall heritage significance of the subject site.

It has been assessed that the JHHIP Project will result in a low degree of visual impact to buildings/structures of identified heritage significance, and to the overall heritage significance of the subject site. However, this degree of impact is assessed as acceptable given the compromised context within which the proposed development will occur. The proposed new ASB will not result in any greater visual impact on the setting of significant buildings/structures than existing, contemporary development already has.

The historical archaeological potential of the subject site has been assessed as low. As such, there are no identified historical archaeological constraints associated with the JHHIP Project.

5.1 Recommendation

Recommendation 1

In the unlikely event that intact remains are unexpectedly discovered during works, work must cease, an appropriately qualified archaeologist consulted with. If appropriate, the Heritage Council should be notified in accordance with section 146 of the *Heritage Act*.



6.0 References

1947 'Chest Hospital In "Rankin Park"', *The Newcastle Sun (NSW : 1918 - 1954)*, 2 April, p. 8. viewed 30 Sep 2020, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article157764532

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