

Heritage Impact Statement

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE, HONEYSUCKLE CAMPUS CITY
DEVELOPMENT—STAGE 1A SSDA



FEBRUARY 2019

Prepared by Curio Projects for University of Newcastle
FINAL REPORT

Document Information

Citation: Curio Projects 2019, *University of Newcastle, Honeysuckle City Campus Development, Stage 1A—Heritage Impact Statement*. Report to University of Newcastle.

Local Government Area: Newcastle

Client: University of Newcastle

Report Cover: Render of Building A1 (EJE Architecture 2019)

ISSUE No.	ISSUE DATE	VERSION	NOTES/COMMENTS	AUTHOR	APPROVED
1	15/2/19	Draft	For Client Review	Andrew Brown/ Sam Cooling	Sam Cooling
2	22/2/19	Final	For SSD Submission	Andrew Brown/ Sam Cooling	Sam Cooling

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Curio Projects Pty Ltd
L1/204 Clarence Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Australia

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Executive Summary

Curio Projects Pty Ltd has been commissioned by University of Newcastle (the University) to prepare a Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) for the Stage 1A development of the University of Newcastle, Honeysuckle City Campus Development (HCCD) (the study area), located within the Honeysuckle Precinct, Newcastle CBD.

The purpose of this HIS is to identify any potential heritage impact that the Stage 1A development may have on heritage items, heritage conservation areas, potential archaeological resources, and Aboriginal cultural heritage values, located or associated within or in the vicinity of the study area.

Following the submission of the Concept Plan State Significant Development for the HCCD development, the University lodged a request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for a subsequent SSDA for the Honeysuckle Campus Stage 1A (SSD 9510). SEARs for Stage 1A of the HCCD project were issued on 27 August 2018. The SEARs require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Stage 1A, which this HIS informs and supports.

The HCCD Stage 1A development (the specific study area to which this HIS refers) is referred to as 'Lot A1', located along the western edge of Site 1 of The University HCCD development site, on the southeast corner of the intersection between Honeysuckle Drive, Worth Place and Wright Lane. The Stage 1A works are located within Part Lot 1 DP 1163346.

The majority of the HCCD study area was originally part of the wider Honeysuckle/Civic Railway Workshops (the remaining buildings of which are contained within the curtilage of the State heritage register listing of 'Civic Railway Workshops Group'). No built heritage items are located within the HCCD study area itself. While no individual heritage items are located directly within the Stage 1A SSD study area (Lot A1), nor within the curtilage of any Heritage Conservation Area, the development of Building A1 has been considered within its heritage context in order to identify any potential impact the future building may present to the heritage values of the surrounds, or potential to impact any archaeological resource.

Built Heritage

This HIS has found that the Stage 1A development will present no physical impact to any individual heritage item or heritage fabric. In addition, location of Lot A1 in the west of HCCD Site 1, puts the development at a significant distance from the bulk of the significant heritage of the area (i.e. the SHR Civic Railway Workshop Group), with all potential view lines to this significant heritage site completely obscured by existing development. Therefore, the Stage 1A development will have no visual impact to the setting or character of the Civic Railway Workshops Group, nor any other nearby heritage item or conservation area.

While Building A1 represents an innovative design and concept (i.e. a lightweight digital canvas) the built form of Building A1 will be generally commensurate with the existing context of the modern development within the Honeysuckle Precinct. The proposed materiality and colour palette of the Stage 1A building are in accordance with that proposed in the Concept Plan, and has specifically been designed to be commensurate with the modern context of the development within Honeysuckle Point. The lightweight and open presentation of the glazed building façade, and use of natural materials and neutral tones will serve to complement the heritage context of the area, without conflicting or detracting from its heritage character.

Overall, it is considered that the contemporary and open form of Building A1 will have a neutral visual impact on the wider heritage values of the area.

Archaeology

While there is moderate to high archaeological potential for structural remains/relics associated with other early railway workshop buildings across the wider HCCD site, the location of Building A1 in the north west of the site, consistent with an area of reclaimed land and not associated with the former location of any major historical structures, it is considered that the Stage 1A development area has no to low potential for any historical archaeological resource to be located in situ within the development footprint.

The Stage 1A study area is located in the northwest of Site 1, i.e. wholly within reclaimed land, formerly located within Throsby Creek/Hunter River, and therefore has no potential to contain an intact in situ Aboriginal archaeological deposit.

Therefore, while the social, historical, and aesthetic values of the wider UON HCCD study area still apply to the Stage 1A location, the scientific (archaeological) value differs due to the limited ability for this location to yield an Aboriginal archaeological deposit. The location of the Stage 1A study area wholly within reclaimed land, means that there is no potential for an intact, in situ Aboriginal archaeological deposit to be present in this location, as Stage 1A location would have been originally located within the river.

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) has been prepared by Curio Projects specific to the Stage 1A development, and should be referenced directly for the detailed assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage and community consultation.

Recommendations

As the Stage 1A development is located entirely on reclaimed land with no potential for intact historical archaeological potential or intact Aboriginal archaeological deposit, nor is it located in proximity to any known registered heritage items, it is recommended that development of Stage 1A can proceed following SSDA approval without the need to seek any additional heritage approvals or archaeological investigation.

The following recommendations are made with regards to heritage for the Stage 1A development of the University of Newcastle Honeysuckle City Campus Development:

- The Stage 1A development works will have no potential to impact any natural soil profiles capable of retaining an Aboriginal archaeological deposit, due to location of the Stage 1A footprint wholly within fill/reclaimed land, and therefore management and mitigation strategies relevant to this stage of the development will focus on social and cultural outcomes and initiatives, rather than archaeological investigation or intervention within the HCCD Stage 1A location (as presented in the relevant ACHAR).
- Stage 1A of the HCCD project will be assessed and approved as a State Significant Development by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, and therefore will not require an AHIP in accordance with Section 90 of the NSW NPW Act.
- It is recommended that an ACHMP should be prepared for the wider HCCD project, in order to provide a working framework and strategic advice for the appropriate and sensitive management of Aboriginal cultural heritage and archaeology going forward for the life of the project. Project RAPs, particularly identified cultural knowledge holders, should be involved in all stages of development of this ACHMP, ideally to be facilitated within a workshop environment.
- While this assessment has identified that there is little to low potential for the development works to impact on any historical archaeological resource, and unexpected finds policy should be implemented during development works, to provide a procedure to follow should any unexpected archaeological resource be encountered during works.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Report

Curio Projects Pty Ltd has been commissioned by University of Newcastle (the University) to prepare a Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) for the Stage 1A development of the University of Newcastle, Honeysuckle City Campus Development (HCCD) (the study area), located within the Honeysuckle Precinct, Newcastle CBD.

The purpose of this HIS is to identify any potential heritage impact that the Stage 1A development may have on heritage items, heritage conservation areas, potential archaeological resources, and Aboriginal cultural heritage values, located or associated within or in the vicinity of the study area.

This HIS has considered the impacts of the proposed development application in accordance with the relevant NSW Heritage Division guidelines, Newcastle City Council LEP and DCP heritage requirements. This includes but is not limited to the *Assessing Heritage Impacts*, *Assessing Heritage Significance*, *Assessing Archaeological Significance Guidelines*, *Design in Context: Guidelines for Infill Development in the Historic Environment*.

This report has been prepared with reference to the following documents:

- Curio Projects, 2018, *Archaeological Assessment for University of Newcastle, Honeysuckle Campus*, prepared for University of Newcastle
- Curio Projects 2018, *Heritage Impact Statement for University of Newcastle Honeysuckle City Development—Concept Plan*, prepared for University of Newcastle
- Cox Architecture, 2017, *University of Newcastle Honeysuckle City Campus Development—Concept Master Plan Report*, prepared for the University of Newcastle, October 2017
- Cox Architecture, 2018, *University of Newcastle Honeysuckle City Campus Development—Design Guidelines*, prepared for University of Newcastle, February 2018
- EJE Architecture 2018, HCCD Stage 1A Schematic Design Set (December 2018)
- Newcastle City Council Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP 2012).
- Newcastle City Council Development Control Plan 2012 (DCP 2012).
- Heritage Office, 2001, *Assessing Heritage Significance*.
- Australia ICOMOS, *Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, The Burra Charter*, 2013.

1.2 Project Background and Development Context

The closure of the heavy rail corridor at Honeysuckle has provided significant opportunities for development in this precinct, including the development of a new University City campus. The current development proposes the expansion of the Newcastle City campus, through the development of new university facilities within the Honeysuckle Precinct of the Newcastle CBD, to be known as the Honeysuckle City campus. The new Honeysuckle City campus will be located on a series of connected sites that have been acquired by the University from the Hunter Development Corporation between Honeysuckle Drive and Civic Lane. A Concept Master Plan has been developed for the site to provide the University with a sensible and flexible framework to guide the future development of the Honeysuckle City campus.

The University has acquired three parcels of land within the Honeysuckle Precinct, one site fronting Honeysuckle Drive (Site 1), and the two adjacent sites along the rail corridor land north of Civic Lane (Sites 2 and 3). This HIS applies only to Stage 1A works, which is concerned with Lot A1 and construction of Building A1, located in the northwest of Site 1.

The Concept Plan application for the University HCCD development was submitted to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) as a State Significant Development (SSD), in July 2018 (SSD 18_9262). At the time of writing, the Concept Plan SSD had been subject to public exhibition (ending 29 August 2018), with the submissions being reviewed by the University. Approval of the Concept Plan SSD is anticipated for early 2019.

Following the submission of the Concept Plan SSDA, the University lodged a request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for a subsequent SSDA for the Honeysuckle Campus Stage 1A (SSD 9510). SEARs for Stage 1A of the HCCD project were issued on 27 August 2018. At the time of writing, the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Stage 1A was in preparation, which this HIS informs and supports. The SEARs provide the following requirements, with respect to heritage:

9. Heritage

The EIS shall:

- *include a Heritage Impact Statement (HIS), prepared by a suitably qualified Heritage Consultant in accordance with the guidelines in the NSW Heritage Manual. The HIS is to address the impacts of the proposal on any heritage significance of the site and adjacent areas and is to identify the following:*
 - *all heritage items (state and local) within the vicinity of the site*
 - *the impacts of the proposal on heritage items including visual impacts*
 - *attempts to avoid and/or mitigate the impact on the heritage significance or cultural heritage values of the site and the surrounding heritage items*
- *identify any areas with historical archaeological potential within the proposed site that could be impacted by the works. If impact on potential archaeology is identified, a Historical Archaeological Assessment (HAA) should be prepared by a suitably qualified historical archaeologist in accordance with the Heritage Council Guidelines for Archaeological Assessment (1996) and Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics' (2009)*
- *identify and describe any Aboriginal cultural heritage values that exist across the site.*
- *include an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) that identifies and describes Aboriginal cultural heritage values that existing across the area affected by the development, prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigations of Aboriginal Objects in NSW, and guided by Guide for Investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW*
- *consultation with Aboriginal people must be undertaken and documented in accordance with the Aboriginal Cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010 (DECCW)*
- *have regard to Newcastle's Archaeological Management Strategy (City of Newcastle 2015).*

The current report constitutes the Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) report as required by the project SEARs, and includes an assessment and summary of historical and Aboriginal archaeological potential specific to the Stage 1A works.

A separate Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) for the Stage 1A development of the HCCD (Curio Projects 2019), to which reference should be made for further details of Aboriginal cultural heritage and Aboriginal community consultation.

1.3 Project Area

The study area relevant to this HIS is Lot 1A of the HCCD project. The overall site of the HCCD is located approximately between Honeysuckle Drive and Civic Lane, within the Honeysuckle Precinct of the Newcastle CBD, within the Newcastle City Council LGA. The future Honeysuckle City campus will be located across a number of lots across three separately identified sites (Sites 1, 2 and 3), which currently exist generally as vacant lots, car parking and part of the former heavy rail corridor (Figure 2 and Figure 3).

The HCCD Stage 1A development (the specific study area to which this HIS refers) is referred to as 'Lot A1', located along the western edge of Site 1 of The University HCCD development site, on the southeast corner of the intersection between Honeysuckle Drive, Worth Place and Wright Lane. The Stage 1A works are located within Part Lot 1 DP 1163346 (Figure 1.3).



FIGURE 1.1: OVERALL HCCD SITE, DEVELOPMENT LOTS (SOURCE: CURIO 2018)

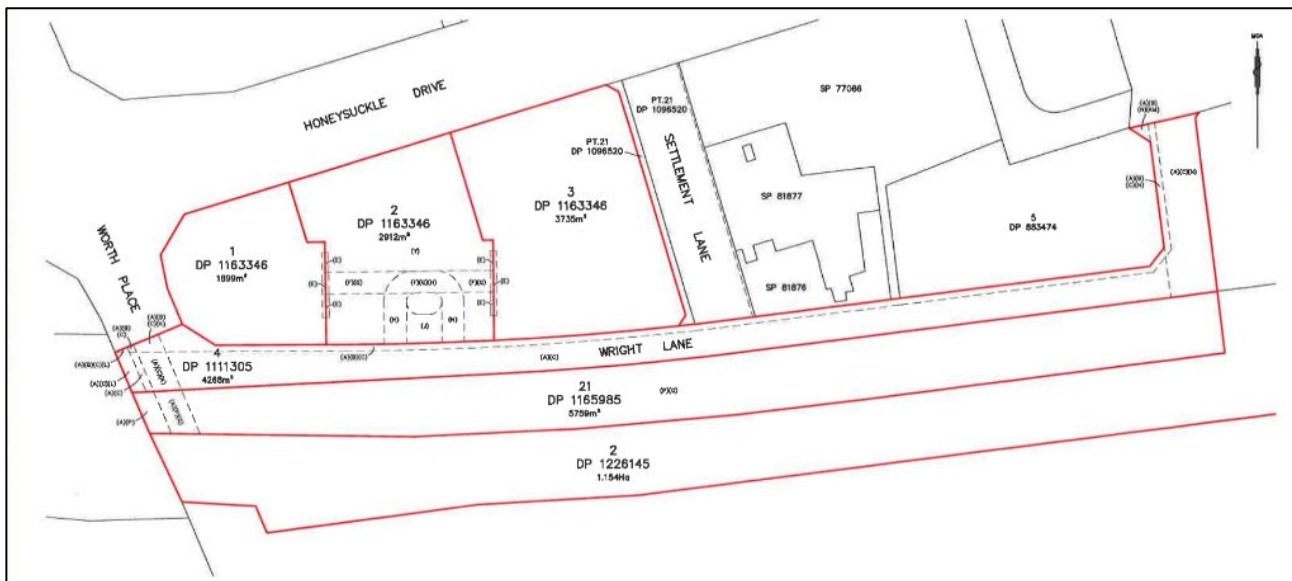


FIGURE 1.2: EXISTING LOTS AND DPs ACROSS SITE AND SURROUNDS. (SOURCE: MONTEATH & POWYS, 2017)

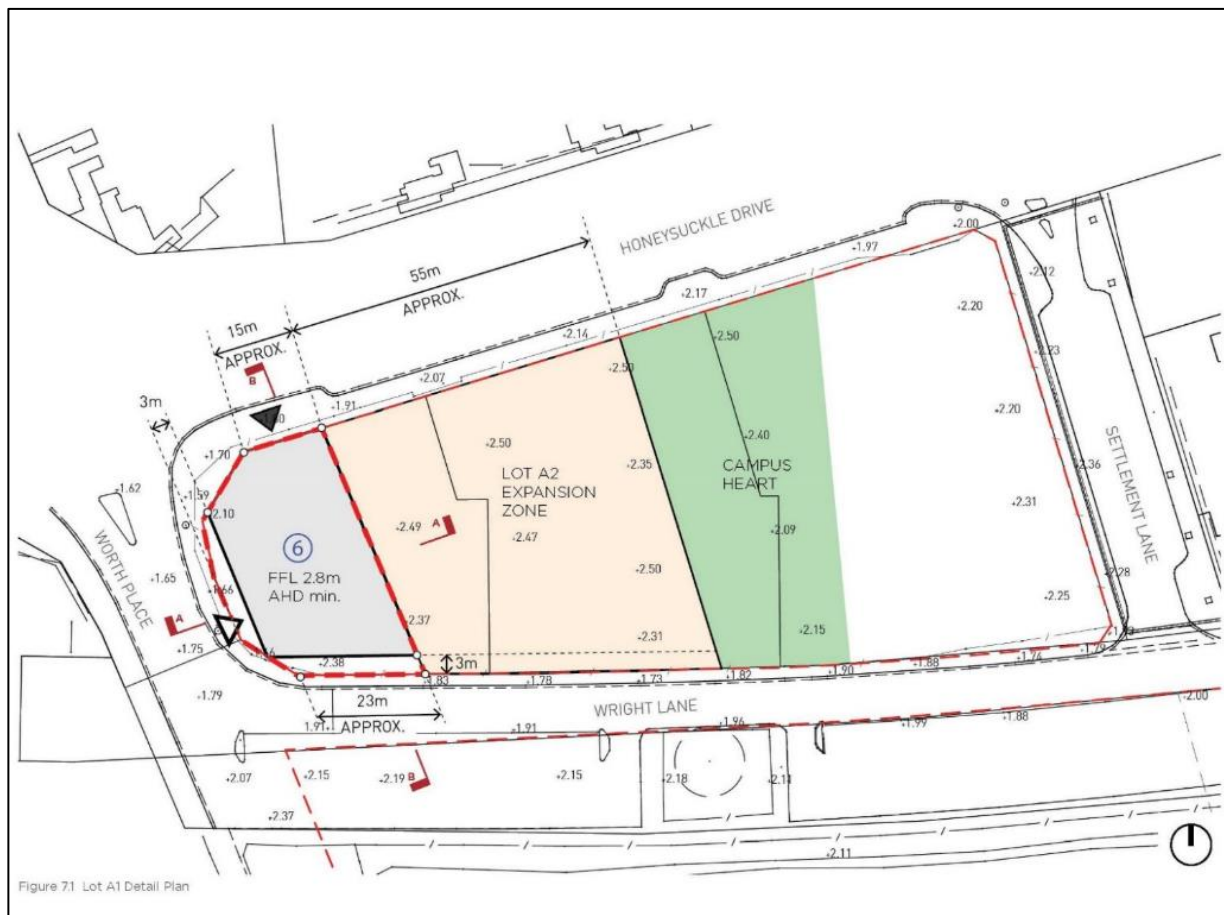


FIGURE 1.3: HCCD STAGE 1A STUDY AREA (SOURCE: COX ARCHITECTURE 2018)

1.4 Limitations and Constraints

This HIS assesses the potential visual impacts of the HCCD Stage 1A works on the heritage of the local area and adjacent heritage items, as well as assessment of the potential for historical archaeological resources and

Aboriginal archaeological objects/places to be present within the subject site, and a general preliminary assessment of potential impact to archaeological resources, relevant to the Concept Plan documentation available. Since the detailed design and construction methods and techniques (including ground disturbing works) for the development have not yet been determined at Concept Plan stage, (to be determined as part of the Stage 2 DA for the development, following approval of the Stage 1 Concept Plan SSDA), the heritage impacts as presented through this report are relevant to the Stage 1A only, and will require further heritage impact assessment once detailed design and ground impacts are known (through Stage 2 DA process).

While an assessment of Aboriginal archaeology is presented in this HIS, this report does not include a detailed assessment of the potential Aboriginal Cultural Heritage significance (intangible values) of the site. For an assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage values associated with the Stage 1A development, reference should be made to the Stage 1A ACHAR.

The description of the Stage 1A schematic plan and potential heritage impacts as presented in this report, have been extracted from the HCCD Stage 1A Concept Design Report and schematic plans as provided by the client (EJE Architecture 2018). This HIS does not include assessment of any non-heritage related planning controls or requirements.

1.5 Authorship

This report has been prepared by Andrew Brown, Archaeologist, with specialist input and review by Sam Cooling, Senior Archaeologist, of Curio Projects Pty Ltd. All Curio mapping and overlays were prepared by Andre Fleury, Archaeologist and Historian with Curio Projects.

2.0 Statutory Context

In NSW, heritage items and known or potential archaeological resources are afforded statutory protection under the:

- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) (EPA Act);
- *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW) (Heritage Act); and
- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW) (NPW Act).

There are further planning policies and controls that provide a non-statutory role in the protection of environmental heritage. These include *Development Control Plans* for each local Council area.

This section of the report discusses the local and State planning context for the site with respect to its heritage values associated with local heritage items and conservation areas in the vicinity of the study area.

2.1 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment administers the EPA Act, which provides the legislative context for environmental planning instruments to be made to legislate and guide the process of development and land use. Local heritage items, including known archaeological items, identified Aboriginal Places and heritage conservation areas are protected through listings on Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) or Regional Environmental Plans (REPs). The EPA Act also requires that potential Aboriginal and historical archaeological resources are adequately assessed and considered as part of the development process, in accordance with the requirements of the NPW Act and the Heritage Act.

Part 4, Division 4.1 of the EP&A Act identifies and defines State Significant Development projects (SSD) as those declared under Section 89C of the EP&A Act. SSD and State Significant Infrastructure projects (SSI), replace 'Concept Plan' project approvals, in accordance with Part 3A of this Act, which was repealed in 2011.

As the proposed redevelopment of the University of Newcastle HCCD will have a capital investment exceeding \$10 million, an application will be made for it to be a State Significant Development (SSD) for the purposes of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), with the Minister for Planning the consent authority for the project. The State Significant Development Application (SSDA) which this HIS supports, constitutes Stage 1A of a staged development application process for the development of the HCCD site, made under Section 83B of the EP&A Act. The Stage 1A SSDA seeks approval for development activities associated with the development of Lot A1 (Building A1) within the HCCD.

As part of the SSD approvals process, once a project has been approved SSD, applicants are not required to obtain separate heritage statutory approvals, including built heritage and historical archaeology approvals under Section 60 of the *NSW Heritage Act (1977)* or Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits (AHIPs) under Section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974*.

Following the issuing of final Notice of Determination (approval), the statutory provisions of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* and the *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* will only apply again, if—once development commences—an unexpected discovery of historical archaeological relics or Aboriginal objects and/or Aboriginal places are made during the works program.

Should an unexpected archaeological resource be found, then there is a requirement to cease works in the immediate area and report the discovery of the unexpected archaeological find—to the relevant authority (NSW Heritage Division or OEH). This is the only statutory process not over-ridden by the SSD process.

Should any archaeological remains identified in the assessments submitted with the EIS be found, these are not considered to be 'unexpected finds'

2.1.1 Newcastle Local Environmental Plan 2012

Clause 5.10 of the Newcastle Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP) sets out objectives and planning controls for the conservation of heritage in the City of Newcastle, including the conservation of built heritage and archaeological sites. The objectives and planning controls for the conservation of Newcastle's environmental heritage are outlined in Clause 5.10 Heritage Conservation

As this development will be approved as SSD, the consent authority for the development will be the NSW Department of Planning (as outline in the section above), rather than the Newcastle City Council.

2.1.2 Newcastle Development Control Plan 2012

The Newcastle Development Control Plan (DCP) 2012 (as amended 2018) is a non-statutory development control plan that provides the detailed design guidelines to support the LEP 2012. The Newcastle DCP 2012 provides simple guidance on how development may occur, and includes notably, main objectives to ensure that items of environmental heritage are conserved, respected and protected.

Protection provisions for the conservation of Newcastle's environmental heritage are set out in Part 5 of the DCP 2012. Section 5.04, 5.05, 5.06 and 5.07 detail provisions relating to Aboriginal Heritage, Heritage Items, Archaeological Management, and Heritage Conservation Areas respectively.

Of specific relevance to the subject site, the provisions of Section 5.04 (Aboriginal Heritage) include adherence to the OEH Due Diligence process and other OEH statutory guidelines (as outlined in Section 2.2.2. Section 5.05 (Heritage Items) provides general principles and controls for the management of heritage items, including encouragement for retention, maintenance of suitable settings, ongoing maintenance and care, and adaptive re-use. Section 5.06 (Archaeological Management) relates to historical archaeology, and recommends compliance with the Newcastle Archaeological Management Plan and *NSW Heritage Act 1977*.

The aims of Section 5.07 (Heritage Conservation Areas) of the DCP are:

1. *To provide a framework for the conservation of special qualities within each of Newcastle's Heritage Conservation Areas [including Newcastle City Centre]*
2. *To define the importance, in heritage terms of each heritage conservation area by providing a Statement of Heritage Significance that shall be the basis of design development.*
3. *To ensure that development activity within each heritage conservation area is commensurate with heritage significance and produces good design and liveable streetscapes.*
4. *To ensure that all development has a positive effect on the character of heritage conservation areas.*
5. *To provide clarity on the types of alterations and additions acceptable in each heritage conservation area.*
6. *To identify when the adaptive re-use of existing buildings is suitable.*
7. *To integrate the principles of ecologically sustainable development with best practice heritage management.*

Section 5.07.07 of the DCP related to infill development in a heritage conservation area, stating that 'all new development in the conservation area should be treated as 'infill', that is, it should respect the design of its neighbours and the character of the area generally...Infill development should not copy or replicate its neighbouring traditional buildings, rather it is appropriate to interpret the features of neighbouring buildings and design them in a way that reflects and respects them'.¹

Infill development should:

1. *Respect the design of its neighbours and the character of the heritage conservation area*
2. *Achieve a harmony of character; sympathy of scale; appropriateness of form; appropriate orientation and setback, and sympathetic materials and details within heritage conservation areas*

*Demonstrate a good fit within its setting that respects the neighbouring buildings and the character of the heritage conservation area.*²

Section 6.01 of the DCP (as amended, 17.4.18) provides locality specific provisions for the 'Newcastle City Centre', which includes 'Honeysuckle Character Area'. The Honeysuckle Character Area is described as:

Honeysuckle is currently the premier locale for A-grade large floor plate commercial office development. A range of complementary uses include higher density residential development, restaurants and hotels which take advantage of Honeysuckle's prime position on the Hunter River foreshore. Honeysuckle has opportunities for significant public domain. The extension of the foreshore park westwards will form a continuous publicly accessible foreshore that extends from Maryville to Merewether around the city centre peninsula.

The DCP principles for development of the Honeysuckle Precinct include:

1. *Development between the former rail corridor and Honeysuckle Drive provides a building address to both frontages*
2. *Development along the waterfront, Cottage Creek, lanes or through-site links provide a building address to encourage activity, pedestrian and cycleway movement, and improve safety*
3. *Heritage items and their setting are protected principles.*

2.2 Heritage Framework

2.2.1 NSW Heritage Act 1977

Heritage places and items of particular importance to the people of New South Wales are listed on the NSW State Heritage Register. The *NSW Heritage Act 1977* (NSW Heritage Act) defines a heritage item as a 'place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct'. The Heritage Act is responsible for the conservation and regulation of impacts to items of State heritage significance, with 'State Heritage Significance' defined as being of 'significance to the state in relation to the historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic value of the item'.

In order to best implement and administer the protection afforded to historical archaeological 'relics' and heritage places as through the NSW Heritage Act, and EP&A Act, the NSW State Government have prepared a

¹ Newcastle City Council DCP 2012, Section 5.07: 9

² Newcastle City Council DCP 2012, Section 5.07: 10

series of best practice statutory guidelines with regards to historical archaeology. These guidelines are designed to assist developers, landowners and archaeologists to better understand their statutory obligations with regards to historical archaeology in NSW, and implement best practice policies into their investigation of historical archaeological heritage values in relation to their land and/or development.

Further details regarding the archaeological requirements and provisions under the *NSW Heritage Act* have been presented and discussed in Curio Projects 2018, *Archaeological Assessment for University of Newcastle, Honeysuckle City Campus* (AA) report, which should be referenced for further detail regarding historical archaeological provisions.

2.2.2 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW) (NPW Act).

The *NSW Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act), administered by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), is the primary legislation that provides statutory protection for all 'Aboriginal objects' (Part 6, Section 90) and 'Aboriginal places' (Part 6, Section 84) within NSW.

An Aboriginal object is defined through the NPW Act as:

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

The NPW Act provides the definition of 'harm' to Aboriginal objects and places 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), "³

The NPW Act also establishes penalties for 'harm' to Aboriginal objects and declared Aboriginal places, as well as defences and exemptions for harm. One of the main defences against the harming of Aboriginal objects and cultural material is to seek an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) under Section 90 of the NPW Act, under which disturbance to Aboriginal objects could be undertaken, in accordance with the requirements of an approved AHIP.

As the HCCD project has been assessed to be SSD, the requirement for an AHIP in accordance with Section 90 of the NPW Act will be removed for the main works (EP&A Act, Section 89J). However, this does not remove the requirement to undertake Aboriginal cultural heritage and archaeological assessments/investigation in accordance with OEH statutory guidelines for the SSD process.

In order to best implement and administer the protection afforded to Aboriginal objects and places as through the NPW Act, and EP&A Act, the OEH have prepared a series of best practice statutory guidelines with regards to Aboriginal heritage. These guidelines are designed to assist developers, landowners and archaeologists to better understand their statutory obligations with regards to Aboriginal heritage in NSW, and implement best practice policies into their investigation of Aboriginal heritage values and archaeology in

³ NPW Act 1974

relation to their land and/or development. It is anticipated that the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARS) for the project will require adherence to these Aboriginal cultural heritage statutory guidelines documents. These guidelines include:

- *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW.*⁴
- *Guide to Investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW.*⁵
- *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales.*⁶
- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010.*⁷
- *Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits, a Guide for Applicants.*⁸

2.3 Statutory Heritage Listings

While there are no heritage items located directly within the Stage 1A study area, several heritage items are located in the vicinity of the study area and in association with the wider University HCCD site (e.g. the eastern part of HCCD Site 3 is included within the curtilage of the SHR listed Civic Railway Workshops Group, while the southern part of the HCCD (Sites 2 and 3) is included within the Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area (HCA C4, LEP 2012)).

While the Stage 1A study area does not include any individual heritage items, nor is it located within any Heritage Conservation Area, it is located in close proximity to a number of heritage items (of both local and State significance). Heritage items, curtilages and HCAs relevant to the wider HCCD are presented in Figure 4.

Other nearby heritage items include:

- Civic Railway Workshops Group (Local Heritage Item #I479 and State Heritage Register #00956)
- Civic Railway Station Group (Section 170 NSW State Agency Heritage Register)
- No. 2 Lee Wharf Building C—3C Honeysuckle Drive (Local Heritage Item #I390)
- No. 1 Lee Wharf Building A—13 Honeysuckle Drive (Local Heritage Item #I389)
- Former Police Station—558 Hunter Street (Local Heritage Item #I420)
- Newcastle Technical College—590-608 Hunter Street (Local Heritage Item #I3496)
- Remains of AA Co., bridge and fence—280 Hunter Street (Local Heritage Item #I415)
- Civic Theatre—373 Hunter Street (Local Heritage Item #I418 and SHR #01883)

2.3.1 Newcastle City Centre HCA (LEP 2012, HCA C4)

The southern part of the wider HCCD site is located within the Newcastle City Centre HCA, while the northeastern part of the HCCD site is immediately adjacent to the western boundary of the HCA. The Newcastle City Centre HCA is bounded by Hunter Street, Scott Street, Watt Street, Newcomen Street, King Street, Perkins Street, Keightley Lane, Brown Street, Crown Street, Perkins Street, Wolfe Street. The Newcastle City Centre HCA is of local significance.

2.3.2 Civic Railway Workshops Group (SHR #00956)

The Civic Railway Workshops Group consists of several remaining buildings including: the Divisional Engineer's Office, the Boiler House and Machine Shop, the Perway Railway Store building (Civic Workshops Block A), the Locomotive Boiler Shop, the New Erecting Shop, and the Blacksmith and Wheel Shop. The latter three of these buildings have been adaptively re-used to function as the Museum of Newcastle since 2011, while the

⁴ DECCW 2010, *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*.

⁵ OEH 2011, *Guide to Investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW*.

⁶ DECCW 2010, *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*.

⁷ DECCW 2010, *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

⁸ OEH 2011, *Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits, a Guide for Applicants*.

Divisional Engineer's Office/Boiler House and Machine Shop are the current headquarters of Wine Selectors, Newcastle, and the Perway Railway Store was adapted in 2005 to serve as the Forum Health and Wellness Centre owned by the University of Newcastle Sport.

The curtilage of the Civic Railway Workshops Group is formed by Mereweather Street to the east, the railway line to the south, Lee Wharf Road to the north.

2.3.3 Civic Railway Station Group (s170 Register)

The Civic Railway Station Group is listed on the Section 170 register maintained by the Hunter Development Company. It was also listed on the now defunct, non-statutory heritage register of the 'Register of the National Estate'. Civic Railway Station was decommissioned in 2014 as a result of the Newcastle Urban Transformation and Transport Program, which truncated the Newcastle Branch Line at Wickham. While in reasonable condition, Civic Railway Station Group is currently unused.



FIGURE 2.1: HERITAGE MAP, STAGE 1A STUDY AREA CIRCLED IN RED (SOURCE: CURIO 2018 AFTER LEP HERITAGE MAP)

3.0 Historical Summary

3.1 Pre-European Environment and Aboriginal Ethnohistory

The traditional custodians of the Honeysuckle Point area as well as across much of the wider Newcastle region are the Awabakal people. While the majority of written records relating to Awabakal people of the Newcastle region were written by early European colonists and the like, and therefore represent the views of the authors rather than that of the Aboriginal people themselves, these resources can still provide a useful insight into the activities, locations, tools, clothing etc of local Aboriginal people during the early contact period. Regardless, it is well established that Aboriginal people intensively inhabited the Hunter Valley/Newcastle region, long before 1788 (Figure 5).

A number of natural and prominent landscape features around the Newcastle area are known to be of significance/sacred sites to local Aboriginal people. One of these sacred sites is Nobbys Head, known to local Aboriginal people as *Whibay Gamba*, where it is said that a kangaroo jumped from Fort Scratchley (*Tahlbihn Point*) to Nobbys, where it remained hidden in the bowels of the island, occasionally thumping its tail and shaking the land (thought of as a reference to the region's earthquake activity). Other known significant Aboriginal sites in the Newcastle area include a tool making site at *Pillapay Kullaitaran* (Glenrock Lagoon) and shell midden sites across *Meekarlba* (Honeysuckle),⁹ (adjacent to/consistent with the current study area). Newcastle is known to local Aboriginal people as *Muloobinba*, while the Hunter River is known as *Coquon*.

Aboriginal people in the Newcastle/Honeysuckle area would have had access to a wide variety of food and other subsistence resources, due to the diversity of landscape features associated with the close proximity to the Hunter River and its estuary, and the South Pacific Ocean along the Newcastle coast. Numerous historical observations make reference to these abundant resources and their use by Aboriginal people.

An observation of the quantity of fish available in the Hunter River was made by Lieutenant Grant of the Royal Navy, who noted that:

*'fish were taken in great quantities, and of various kinds, particularly mullets, which were large and well flavoured. We caught also a species of jew fish, one of which weighed 56 pounds, and proved excellent eating. From the numbers of this fish, which escaped the seine, I am inclined to think there is great plenty in this river'*¹⁰

Aboriginal people of the area would fish both from canoes as well as from the shoreline, using both line and spear fishing techniques, as well as hunting for other sealife such as lobsters. In the mid 1800s, William Scott of Port Stephens observed Aboriginal men and women working together to fish:

*'The women would be on the lookout for the shining, shimmering mass of fish to come round some wooded headland, and when their shrill outcries told of the approach of the finny prey, the men would rush to the shore. Hissing into the water would hurtle the heavy spears....'*¹¹

⁹ City of Newcastle, 2018, 'Aboriginal Culture', retrieved from <http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/Explore/History-Heritage/Aboriginal-culture>, 22 February 2018.

¹⁰ AMBS 2005:35, after Grant 1803: 159-160

¹¹ AMBS 2005: 36, after Newcastle Morning Herald Supplement 1993



FIGURE 3.1: 'ABORIGINES RESTING BY CAMP FIRE, NEAR MOUTH OF THE HUNTER RIVER, NEWCASTLE' (NOBBY'S HEAD VISIBLE IN CENTRE BACKGROUND OF PAINTING). PAINTING BY JOSEPH LYCETT, C. 1817 (SOURCE: NLA, [HTTP://NLA.GOV.AU/NLA.OBJ-138500420](http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-138500420))

3.2 Brief History of Colonial Newcastle

The mouth of the Hunter River was first noted by Captain Cook in 1770 as 'coal island' (in reference to Nobbys Head) during his voyage north. Following the establishment of the Sydney colony in 1788 there are reports of early fishermen visiting the Hunter River area, however it was not until 1797 when Lieutenant John Shortland sailed from Sydney in pursuit of escaped convicts, that the Hunter Valley and Newcastle region began to be explored in any detail.¹² Shortland was the one who gave the Hunter River its name, named for the Governor of NSW of the time, John Hunter. It was Shortland who also provided early detailed accounts of the quantity of coal located in the region, stating that:

*'The entrance of this river is but shallow, and covered by a high rocky island lying right off it so as to leave a good passage round the north end of the island, between that and the shore. A reef connects, the south part of the island with the south shore of the entrance to the river. In this harbour are found a considerable quantity of very good coal, and lying so near the water side as to be conveniently shipped, which gives it, in this particular, a manifest advantage over that discovered to the southward. Some specimens of this coal were brought up in the boat.'*¹³

Following a convict rebellion at Castle Hill in the Sydney colony, Australia's second penal colony was established in Newcastle in 1804, initially known as 'Kings Town'.¹⁴ Newcastle served from 1804 to 1823 as

¹² AMBS 2005: 39

¹³ AMBS 2005: 39, after Newcastle City Council 2003

¹⁴ Melville, R., 2014, *A harbour from a creek: a history of the Port of Newcastle*. Newcastle Port Corporation, Newcastle.

one of the principal penal colonies in Australia, often serving as a place of secondary punishment for those who had committed certain crimes.¹⁵ During its time as a penal colony, the main occupations of the convicts were coal mining and timber cutting, with convict labour also used to undertake improvements to the harbour, including early jettys, and the breakwater between Nobbys Island and the mainland (1818). The convict town of Newcastle was focused mainly around the eastern side of the current city, which is evidenced today still by the presence of sites such as the Convict Lumber Yard (near the corner of Scott and Watt Streets). By 1822, a new penal settlement had been established at Port Macquarie, convict transportation to the Newcastle colony was halted, and the Hunter Valley and Newcastle region officially opened to free settlers. However, Newcastle's primary early industry of coal production continued, steadily increasing in size and extent into the post-convict settlement of Newcastle.

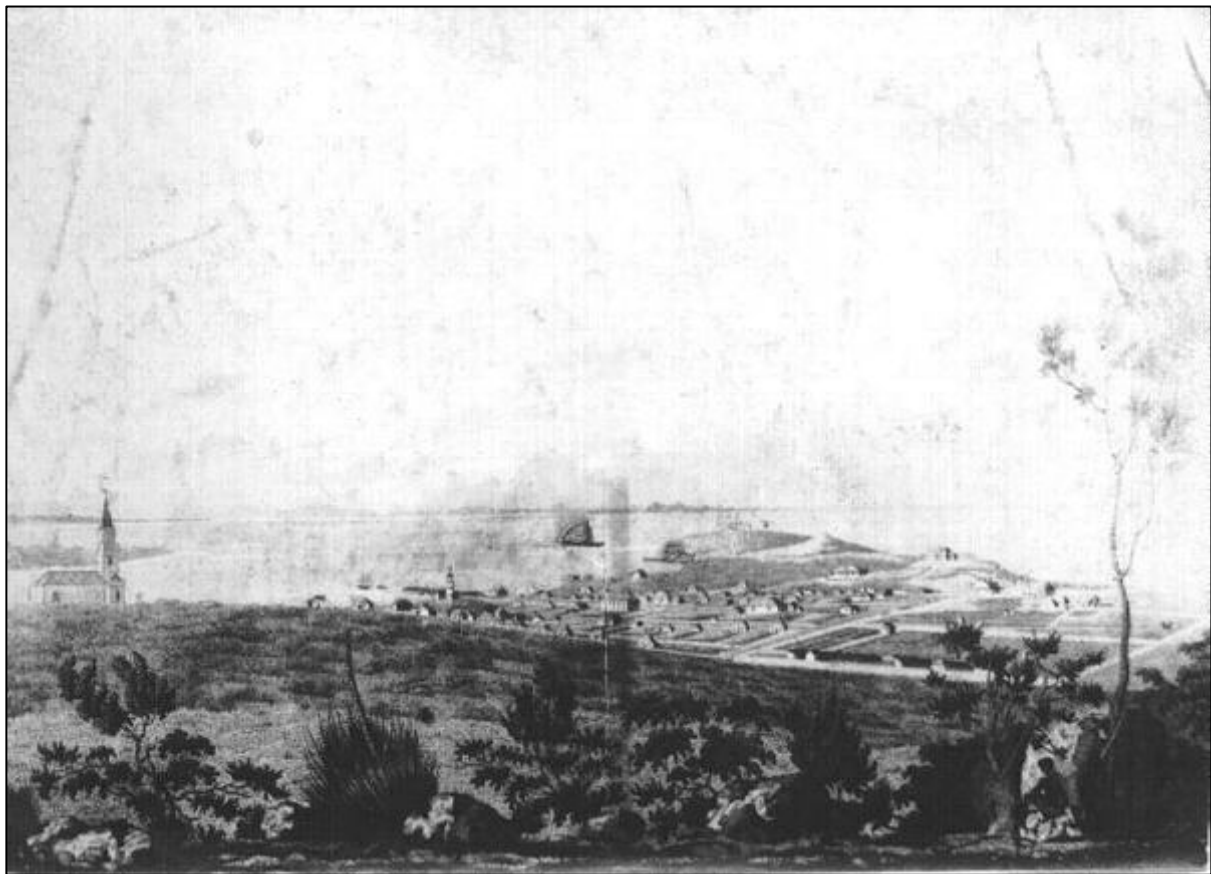


FIGURE 3.2: EARLY VIEW OF NEWCASTLE AND HARBOR, 1820. (SOURCE: NEWCASTLE CULTURAL COLLECTIONS - COLLECTIONS.NCC.NSW.GOV.AU. REGISTRATION NUMBER 013 000021)

3.3 Government Farm, Australian Agricultural Company and Bishop's Settlement (1810–1847)

Government Farm (also known as Commandant's Farm) was established early in Newcastle's settlement (by 1816), and was described as:

'There is a farm belonging to the Government on the river at some distance from the town over which is placed an overseer, who has a farm of his own in the neighbourhood; and to him I give

¹⁵ Walsh, B., 2010, 'Newcastle: Colony's first place of secondary punishment?', Accessed 20.3.18 from <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2010/11/11/was-newcastle-the-colonys-first-place-of-secondary-punishment/>

up my four men in consideration of a certain quantity of wheat and maize for my use which last year amounted to 350 bushels – I have made this arrangement rather than conduct any farm on account of government or have anything to do with farming transactions’¹⁶

AHMS excavation in 2011 at the former Palais Royale site uncovered sandstone footings which were interpreted as evidence of the ‘Commandant’s Cottage’, associated with the Government Farm settlement. The farm would have had convicts nearby used for labour on the farm. Jefferies’ plan of the Hunter from 1816 (Figure 7), depicts the Government Farm extending across a significant area, perhaps even as far east as the location of the former Civic Railway Workshops¹⁷ (i.e. the current study area). An early sketch of the area shows the original shape of Honeysuckle Point, depicting the Government Cottage (Figure 8).

Following the halting of convict deportation and closure of the Newcastle penal colony, in 1825 the Australian Agricultural Company (AAC) selected 2,000 acres of land directly to the west of the town of Newcastle (visible in Figure 9) to mine coal, with the initial purpose of exportation of the coal to India for use by the East India Company steamships. The arrival of the AAC represents a historical moment in the early history of Newcastle, which had a significant impact on the future expansion of the Newcastle town, substantially restricting westward development of the town further than Brown Street until the early 1850s.¹⁸

In 1840, 38 acres of land at Honeysuckle Point was purchased by trustees on behalf of the Anglican Bishop of Australia, Dr Broughton, with the intended purpose for the erection of a church school.¹⁹ However, the economic depression of the time saw no development on the land associated with the proposed school until the arrival of the first Bishop of Newcastle in 1848. At this time, the piece of church owned land was surveyed and subdivided into forty-two allotments, coming to be known as ‘Bishop’s Settlement’.²⁰

By 1851, up to 40 of the allotments had been rented, with houses, commercial premises, shipbuilding yards, wharves and other industrial buildings constructed on the land. The 1857 plan of the area shows a number of buildings present on the land, with several present within the current study area (Figure 10).

¹⁶ Bigge 1822

¹⁷ AHMS 2011: 22

¹⁸ Suters Architects, 1997, *Newcastle Archaeological Management Plan, Vol 1: Study Report*, prepared for Newcastle City Council: 18-19

¹⁹ Civic Railway Workshops Heritage Listing. Available at:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/visit/ViewAttractionDetail.aspx?ID=5044977#>

²⁰ GML, 2001., *‘The Boardwalk’, Newcastle—Archaeological Assessment*, prepared for Wharf Property Developments Pty Ltd



FIGURE 3.3: PART OF HUNTER RIVER WITH GOVERNMENT FARM HIGHLIGHTED. CHARLES JEFFRIES – 1816. (SOURCE: STATE LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES (M M2 811.252/1816/1) WITH CURIO ADDITIONS)

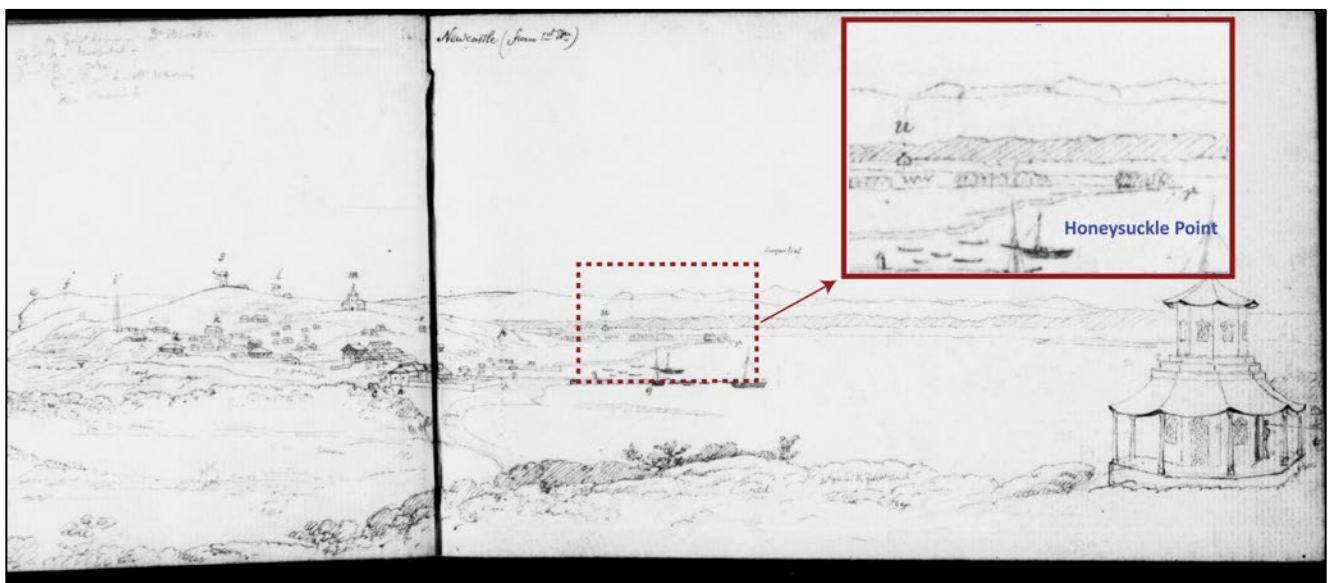


FIGURE 3.4: MITCHELL 1828 SKETCH OF THE TOWN FROM FLAGSTAFF HILL. HONEYSUCKLE POINT SHOWN IN INSET. 'U' IS PRESUMED TO REPRESENT GOVERNMENT COTTAGE. (SOURCE: T. L. MITCHELL FIELDBOOK, PORT JACKSON AND NEWCASTLE, 1828, STATE LIBRARY OF NSW)

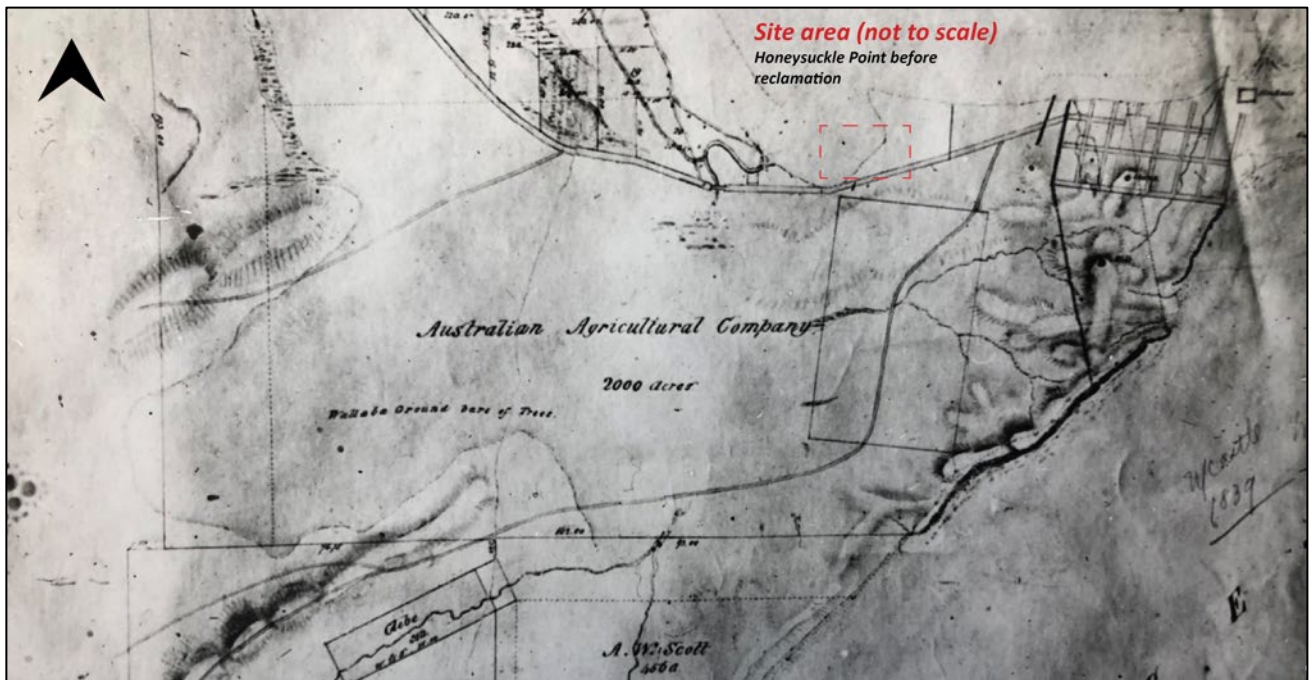


FIGURE 3.5: 1839 MAP OF NEWCASTLE WITH APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF STUDY AREA OVERLAID, AAC LAND VISIBLE TO THE SOUTH (SOURCE: NEWCASTLE REGIONAL LIBRARY)

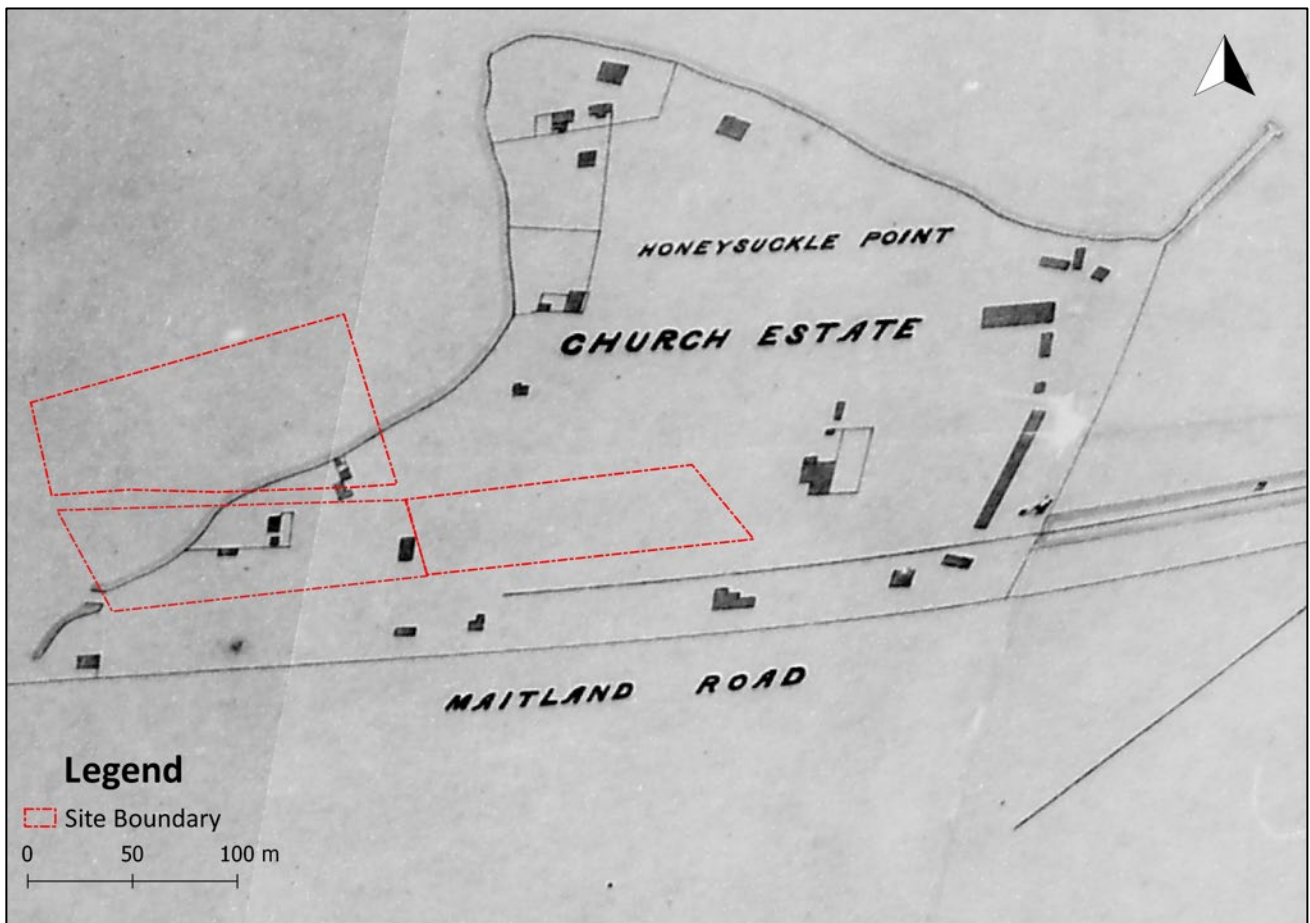


FIGURE 3.6: 1857 HUNTER RIVER RAILWAY: PLAN OF EXTENSION INTO NEWCASTLE (APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF STUDY AREA OVERLAID IN RED), DEPICTED STRUCTURES WOULD LIKELY HAVE INCLUDED PART OF BISHOPS SETTLEMENT, AND POSSIBLE SOME EARLY RAIL BUILDINGS (SOURCE: STATE ARCHIVE & RECORDS, SR MAP NO. 6236)

3.4 Reshaping the Harbour and Railway Expansion (mid 19thC to early 20thC)

The AAC Monopoly on coal mining in the region ended in 1847, enabling mining activities to rapidly escalate in the Newcastle and lower Hunter Valley regions. This increase in coal mining was naturally followed by an increase in demand for industrial infrastructure and activities to support the coal mining, including the need for rail for coal transportation. The boom in coal mining, combined with the introduction of more industrial activities and railways in Newcastle, reinforced the population growth of Newcastle during this period.

The Hunter Valley Railway Company was formed in 1853 with the purpose of building a rail line from Newcastle to Maitland. Thus, land at Honeysuckle Point was resumed for rail purposes, and the tenants of the 'Bishop's Settlement' were given notice of eviction in mid 1854.²¹ By the mid 1850s, the northern rail line from Honeysuckle to Hexham (present Tarro Station) had been constructed, with the first terminus station opening in 1857 (renamed Honeysuckle Station in 1858, Honeysuckle Point from 1866–1872, at which point the station was relocated further to the west). The rail line was extended further east to Newcastle (Newcastle Station) in 1858. By the time the Northern Rail Line was officially opened, the Honeysuckle Point Workshops were well established. The establishment of rail operations at Honeysuckle Point naturally encouraged the economic and population growth of Newcastle during this period. The railway (that came to be known as the Great Northern Railway) connected Newcastle to the hinterland, and later to Sydney and the rest of NSW, most importantly, providing an efficient and economical way to transport coal from the mine, to ships. The Honeysuckle Point Workshops buildings were progressively constructed from 1856 to 1870, and then significantly enlarged between 1870 and 1920.²²

As the Great Northern Railway grew, so too did the need for rail workshops and facilities at Honeysuckle Point. By 1866, the Great Northern Railway had 52 miles of permanent rail line opened, seventeen locomotives, fifty-five passenger vehicles, and 131 goods vehicles.²³ This need for expansion, in turn, led to the need for the modification and land reclamation of the Honeysuckle Point shoreline to increase useable land and a functional shipping interface between the land and harbour, as well as activities such as the dredging of the harbour, to continue to allow passage of ships.

Early stations associated with the Great Northern Railway included the Locomotive Shed, Carriage Repair Shed, Carriage Painting Shop, Machine Shop, and Blacksmiths shop. Honeysuckle Station (Figure 11) was opened in 1872 (located slightly to the west of the current study area), and Mortuary Station in 1883 (Figure 12).²⁴

While the dredging and land reclamation works were undertaken gradually until the 1900s, the first major reclamation works took place in the early 20th Century, approval was given for the development of timber cargo wharves at Honeysuckle Point, followed by the construction of the first stage of Lee Wharf (completed by 1908) (Figure 13). This led to the removal of much of the 'point' of Honeysuckle Point, and the construction of a substantial retaining seawall along the Honeysuckle Point foreshore in order to create a straight edge interface with the harbour for wharves and shipping. The Monier Sea Wall was completed by 1910, using innovative structural design and material which at the time, had previously only been used at

²¹ GML 2001: 7

²² Doring 1991: 8

²³ GML 2001: 7

²⁴ Newcastle Mortuary Platform, NSW Rail, Available from:

<http://www.nswrail.net/locations/show.php?name=NSW:Newcastle+Mortuary>

Walsh Bay in Sydney.²⁵ The material removed from Honeysuckle Point, and dredged from the harbour, was used to infill and reclaim the land behind this retaining wall/new wharf.²⁶



FIGURE 3.7: HONEYSUCKLE POINT STATION AND FOOTBRIDGE, 1892, SHORELINE VISIBLE IN LEFT OF PHOTO, PRIOR TO LAND RECLAMATION (SOURCE: NEWCASTLE REGIONAL LIBRARY: NEWCASTLE CULTURAL COLLECTIONS)



²⁵ Civic Railway Workshops—State Heritage Register Listing. Available from: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/visit/ViewAttractionDetail.aspx?ID=5044977#>

²⁶ *ibid*; EJE Architects 2014: 47

FIGURE 3.8: C.LATE 1800S (EXACT DATE UNKNOWN), WORTH PLACE VIEW TO HUNTER STREET, SHOWING OLD FIRE STATION AND MORTUARY RAILWAY STATION SIGNAL BOX, WITH MORTUARY STATION TO THE LEFT OF THE SIGNAL BOX (SOURCE: NEWCASTLE HERALD ARCHIVES)

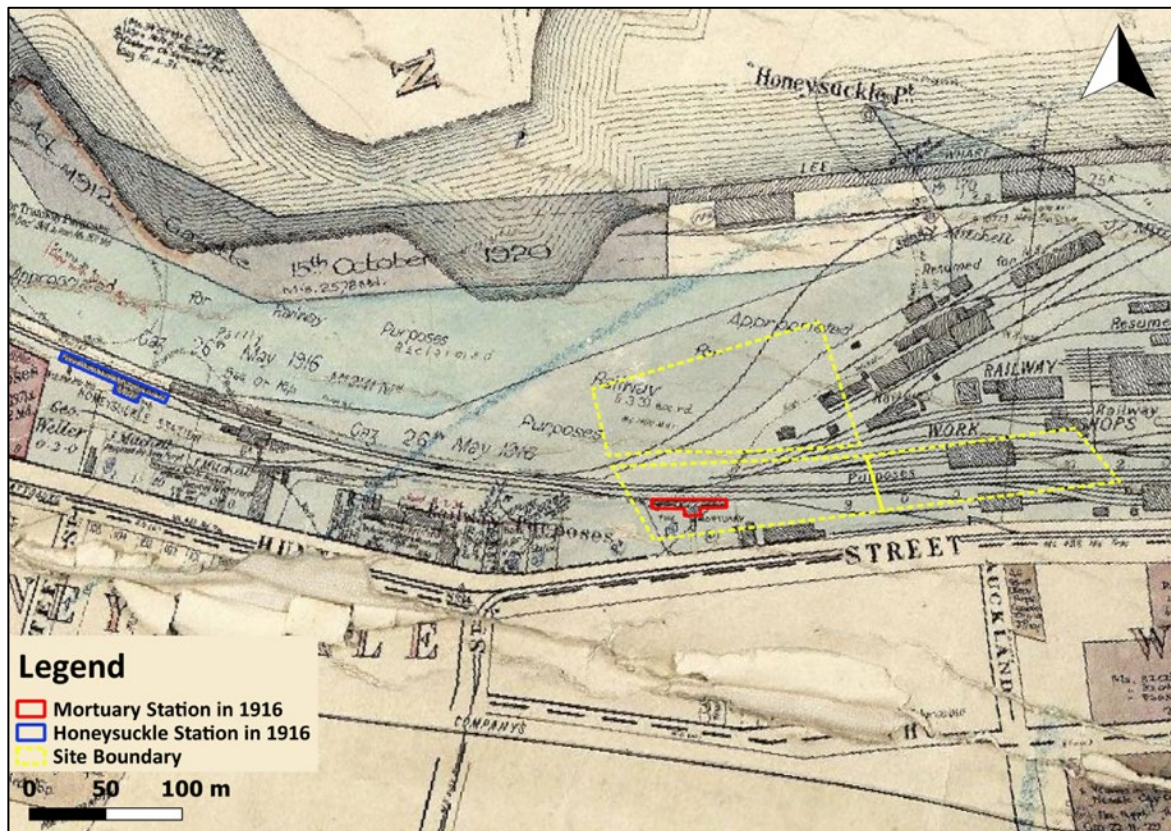


FIGURE 3.9: TOWN PLAN OF NEWCASTLE 1916, APPROXIMATE AREA OF SITES 1-3 IN YELLOW, (MORTUARY STATION AND HONEYSUCKLE STATION SHOWN) (SOURCE: HISTORICAL LANDS RECORD VIEWER)

3.5 Civic Railway Workshops and Decline (c.1930s to 1990s)

The Honeysuckle Workshops (Civic Railway Workshops) functioned for many years as a major rail workshop, managing locomotive, carriage, wagon, and per-way work.²⁷ In 1929, locomotive work was transferred to Cardiff Workshops, and while activity at the Honeysuckle Workshops slowed at this time as a result, many of the workshops still remained in use. Following the opening of the Cardiff Workshops in 1929, the Honeysuckle Workshops began to be known as the 'Civic Workshops'.²⁸ In 1935, Honeysuckle Station was closed and a new station, slightly closer to Newcastle was opened, to be known as Civic Railway Station.²⁹

In 1958, the foundry at the Civic Railway Workshops was closed, with foundry operations and materials relocated to the Chullora Workshops in Sydney.³⁰ Following the closure of the foundry, pressure to relocate other functions of the Civic Railway Workshops to the Cardiff Workshops intensified, to enable the land to be released for redevelopment. Some other rail operations were relocated from Civic to Cardiff in the 1970s, along with the demolition of the Per Way Workshop buildings in the late 1970s.

²⁷ Civic Railway Workshops—State Heritage Register Listing. Available from: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/visit/ViewAttractionDetail.aspx?ID=5044977#>

²⁸ Fenwick 1994: 1

²⁹ Civic Railway Station Group—State Heritage Inventory Listing, Available from: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=4801623>

³⁰ GML 2001: 9

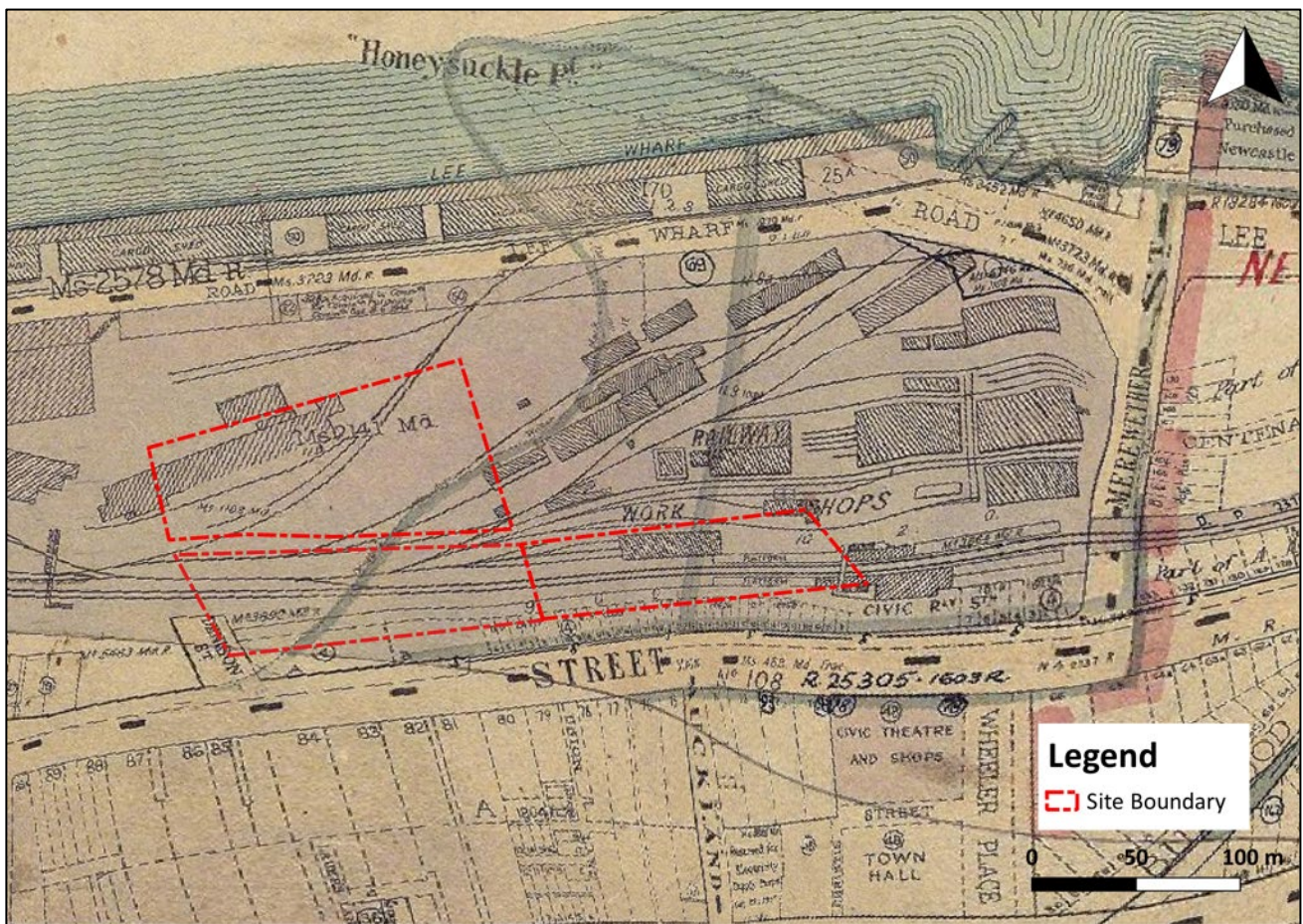


FIGURE 3.10: C.MID 1900S, HONEYSUCKLE RAILWAY WORKSHOPS, INDICATIVE STUDY AREA IN RED (SOURCE: HLRV)

3.6 Honeysuckle Precinct (c.1990s–Present)

As early as 1987, the State Rail Authority had identified the Honeysuckle/Civic Workshops yards as surplus to their future requirements, which lead to the identification of the Honeysuckle area as a significant development site in the revitalization plans of Newcastle.³¹

Following closure of the Civic Workshops in the early 1990s, the former railways workshops site was transferred to Honeysuckle Development Corporation, who proceeded to plan the redevelopment of the Honeysuckle Point area, including land along 4km of Newcastle's waterfront, through the development of the 'Honeysuckle Concept Master Plan' in 1991. The first phase of the redevelopment of the former Civic Workshops site was the demolition, clearance, and decontamination of the majority of the former rail yards. No buildings associated with the Civic Railway Workshops were retained within the study area.

³¹ Fenwick 1994: 1

4.0 Physical Analysis

4.1 Overall HCCD Site

The overall HCCD study area currently consists of a large, partially grassed vacant lot (Site 1) fronting Honeysuckle Drive (bounded by Worth Place in the west and Settlement Lane in the east) (Figure 4.1 and Figure 4.2), one long sealed carpark (northern side of Sites 2 and 3) (Figure 4.3) and the former rail corridor with rail tracks removed and a loose gravel base (most recently used as staging area for nearby construction of the Newcastle Light Rail) (Figure 4.4). Sites 2 and 3 are located immediately to the south of Site 1, with the southern parts of Sites 2 and 3 previously a part of the Newcastle to Wickham rail line, prior to rezoning and rail line removal in 2016.

With regards to surrounding development, the wider HCCD site is bounded to the north, east and west by multi storey residential/commercial units, and to the south by rows of commercial properties/shops between Hunter Street and Civic Lane (Figure 4.3). Civic Railway Station bounds the study area to the southeast (i.e. along the eastern boundary of Site 3), where the Railway platforms remain (Figure 4.5).

The northeastern part of the HCCD site (i.e. the eastern side of Site 3) is adjacent to some of the remaining State heritage listed buildings of the Civic Railways Workshops Group (Divisional Engineers Office and Boiler House and Machine Shop), currently in use by Wine Selectors. The remaining former Civic Railway Workshops Group buildings are located further to the northeast of the HCCD site, currently the home of the Museum of Newcastle (Figure 4.6).



FIGURE 4.1: AERIAL OF STUDY AREA, STAGE 1A IN ORANGE, HCCD SITES 1, 2 AND 3 OUTLINED IN RED. (SOURCE: GOOGLEEARTH PRO 2018)



FIGURE 4.2: VIEW EAST FROM INTERSECTION OF HONEYSUCKLE DRIVE AND WORTH PLACE, CONTEXT OF SITE 1 LOCATION (LOWER AREA OF LAND IN CENTRE OF IMAGE SURROUNDED BY MESH FENCING ETC) (SOURCE: CURIO 2018)



FIGURE 4.3: VIEW EAST FROM WORTH PLACE ACROSS SITE 2, ROW OF COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES VISIBLE (SOURCE: CURIO 2018)



FIGURE 4.4: VIEW EAST ALONG FORMER RAIL CORRIDOR (SOUTHERN PART OF SITE 2), (SOURCE: CURIO 2018)



**FIGURE 4.5: WEST FROM CIVIC STATION TO SITES 2 & 3
PART OF CIVIC RAILWAY WORKSHOP GROUP VISIBLE TO
RIGHT (ORANGE) (SOURCE: CURIO 2018)**

**FIGURE 4.6: PROPOSED SITE 3 LOCATION (CARPARK) IS
IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO STATE HERITAGE ITEM (RIGHT
OF IMAGE), VIEW WEST. (SOURCE: CURIO 2018)**

4.1 Stage 1A (Lot A1)—Site 1

The HCCD Stage 1A study area is located on the western edge of Site 1, on the corner of Honeysuckle Drive, Worth Place and Wright Lane. At time of site inspection in mid to late 2018, Site 1 was being used as a carparking/development staging area for the Newcastle Light Rail project. Context images for Lot A1 (Stage 1A) are presented below in Figure 4.7 to Figure 4.11.



FIGURE 4.7: NORTHERN PORTION OF LOT A1. VIEW SOUTHEAST (SOURCE: CURIO 2018)



**FIGURE 4.8: EAST ALONG HONEYSUCKLE DRIVE, NORTH
BOUNDARY OF LOT A1 TO RIGHT**



**FIGURE 4.9: INTERIOR OF NORTHERN SIDE OF LOT A1,
VIEW EAST (SOURCE: CURIO 2018)**



FIGURE 4.10: VIEW NORTH FROM SITE 1 ACROSS HONEYSUCKLE DRIVE (SOURCE: CURIO 2018)



FIGURE 4.11: VIEW WEST ALONG HONEYSUCKLE DRIVE, SITE 1 VISIBLE IN LEFT (SOURCE: CURIO 2018)

5.0 Potential Archaeological Resource

As part of the HCCD Concept Plan, Curio Projects prepared a stand-alone Archaeological Assessment (AA) report for the wider HCCD study area in order to assess the Aboriginal and historical archaeological potential of the site.

This HIS contains a summary of the outcomes of the archaeological assessment in order to provide context for the assessment of potential impacts, updated and revised to be specific to the development location and nature of the Stage 1A SSD. mined, and recommendations arising from the assessment for the project, with respect to archaeology.

5.1 Aboriginal Archaeological Resources

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR), including assessment of the potential for Aboriginal archaeology specific to the Stage 1A development site of the University HCCD has been prepared to accompany the Stage 1A SSDA.³² The ACHAR has been prepared in accordance with NSW OEH statutory guidelines including the *Guide to Investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (the Guide to Investigating); *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (the Code of Practice); and *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (the Consultation Guidelines). The following sections regarding Aboriginal archaeology are summarised from the ACHAR report.

The traditional custodians of the Honeysuckle Point area as well as across much of the wider Newcastle region are the Awabakal people. Aboriginal people in the Newcastle/Honeysuckle area would have had access to a wide variety of food and other subsistence resources, due to the diversity of landscape features associated with the close proximity to the Hunter River and its estuary, and the South Pacific Ocean along the Newcastle coast.

The original Honeysuckle shoreline would have extended approximately northeast to southwest through the HCCD site, from the northeastern side of Site 1, across to the southwestern side of Site 2. All of Site 3 would have originally been located along/in close proximity to the original shoreline. All of Stage 1A footprint is located within an area of fill/reclaimed land.

Review of the Aboriginal archaeological context of the study area and surrounds, including search of relevant heritage registers, registered Aboriginal sites, and recent Aboriginal archaeological assessments and excavations has determined that Aboriginal archaeological sites have the potential to survive in within the study area to varying degrees.

An extensive AHIMS search was undertaken for the study area on 22nd February 2018 and returned 23 results with a buffer of 1km around the centre of the study area. No registered sites were located directly within the current study area (Figure 34).

The registered sites suggest that the presence of a highly disturbed site does not necessarily mean that the potential for Aboriginal stone artefacts/shell middens in the area has been completely destroyed. In fact, the AHIMS search results tend to indicate that the site types in the area have the potential to be in the form of buried intact natural soil profiles that retain Aboriginal archaeological potential, as well as in the form of

³² Curio Projects 2019, *University of Newcastle, Honeysuckle City Campus Development, Stage 1A—Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report*. Report to University of Newcastle.

isolated artefacts in disturbed contexts (which are still afforded statutory protection, regardless of location within a disturbed context).

Historical use and associated land disturbance within the study area is likely to have disturbed and/or removed the natural soil profiles to some degree, however this would vary across the study area. Located partially across the path of the original shoreline of Honeysuckle Point prior to land reclamation, the northwestern part of the study area would have originally been located in the river.

The more southern/southeastern parts of the HCCD study area would have been located in good proximity to a variety of natural resource zones, including both fresh and salt water floral and faunal resources appropriate for collection/hunting and preparation of shell and estuarine species, as well as close to a wide variety of raw materials for stone tool manufacture, such as Nobbys Silicified Tuff and Hunter River cobbles. The general Honeysuckle Point area and southern foreshore of the Hunter River/within the Hunter estuary delta, would have been a significant location for Aboriginal occupation in the Newcastle area. In consideration of the environmental context, the study area would most definitely have been used by Aboriginal people, with the potential for short term or longer stay campsites.

Several Aboriginal archaeological excavations and investigations have taken place in proximity to the study area in recent years, of which all indicate the potential for Aboriginal objects to be present within both buried intact natural soil profiles, as well as in disturbed contexts. The closest registered Aboriginal sites are only located c.50-100m from the current study area. Of the nearby registered Aboriginal sites, a number have been demonstrated to be both of archaeological/scientific and Aboriginal social and cultural significance. The study area has the potential for Aboriginal stone objects, shell middens, and Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) site types, particularly within deeper sandy soil profiles that have been subject to lower levels of historical disturbance.

Aboriginal artefacts (stone objects, shell middens, campsite, charcoal fragments etc) have the potential to be present even within disturbed contexts (i.e. Boardwalk Site) both as isolated artefacts in highly disturbed contexts/fill/land reclamation, as well as within moderately disturbed natural soil profiles.

Therefore, the Stage 1A ACHAR concluded that:

- There is a moderate potential for isolated Aboriginal artefacts in disturbed contexts to be located within the fill of the Stage 1A footprint. While these disturbed objects would not be of archaeological research potential or significance, they have cultural and social significance to the local Aboriginal community.
- The stage to which this ACHAR relates is the Stage 1A development, the construction of Building A1 in the west of Site 1, to allow development of Building A1 in the west of Site 1 (the construction of a four-storey building intended for use as the 'Innovation Hub and School of Creative Industries'. The Stage 1A development works will have no potential to impact any intact or in situ Aboriginal archaeological deposits.
- The wider HCCD site is of high social and cultural significance to the Awabakal/Guringai people. The location of the study area, close to the Hunter River and in the Greater Newcastle area, is an area that is, and has in the past, provided resources for Awabakal people that have been hunted and collected for thousands of years. The future University City campus is not just an isolated site, but connected to many Cultural Heritage sites across this region and within Awabakal Traditional Country, which should be viewed on a whole as an Aboriginal Cultural Landscape.

- The nature of the overall concept plan development (as it currently stands) will contribute positively towards the conservation of any potential Aboriginal archaeological deposit and cultural heritage values contained within the site, as it is not likely to include any extensive basement excavation that would substantially impact or remove natural soil profiles with the potential for Aboriginal archaeological objects and deposits.

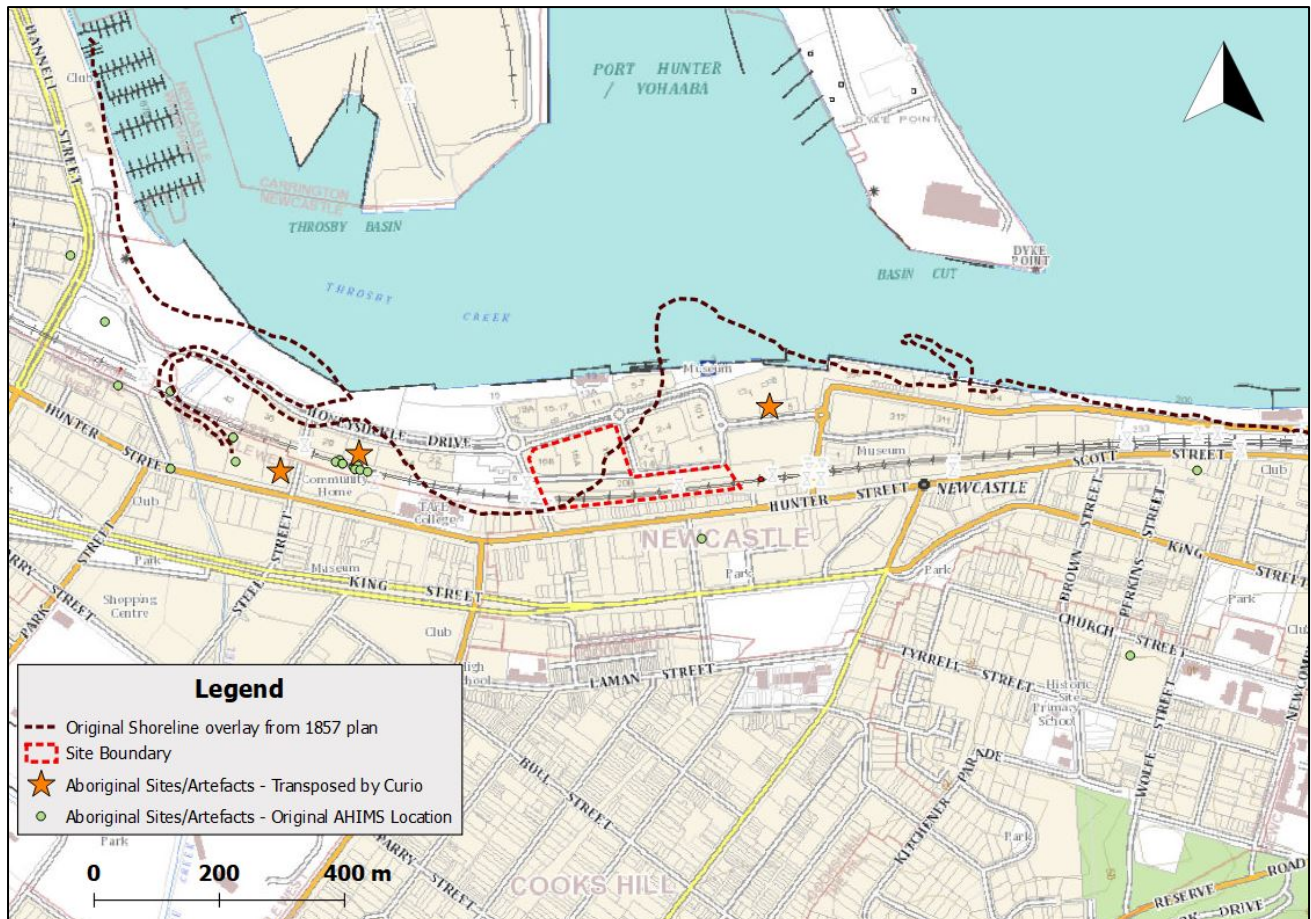


FIGURE 5.1: AHIMS SEARCH RESULTS SITES, WITH INDICATIVE LOCATION OF 1857 SHORELINE (APPROXIMATE ONLY). STUDY AREA INDICATED IN RED. (SOURCE: GOOGLE EARTH PRO WITH CURIO ADDITIONS 2018)

5.2 Historical Archaeological Resources

The following summary has been extracted from the Curio Projects AA for the HCCD (Curio Projects 2018b) and the Historical Archaeological Research Design (ARD) for the Stage 1A Enabling Works, revised to be specific to the Stage 1A SSD study area, and provides an assessment of the possible types of historical archaeological evidence that may be found within the study area, and the potential for such evidence to survive. A summary of the potential archaeological evidence and likelihood to survive from each of the four phases of historical use of the subject site is presented in Table 2.

5.2.1 Phase 1—Early Settlement (1810–1857)

Phase 1 use of the study area relates to the early settlement of the site, including on the fringes of the 'Government Farm' (c.1810), as well as part of the 'Bishop's Settlement' (c.1840s) prior to resumption of the

land for rail purposes (1857). Archaeological excavation undertaken by AMAC in 2006³³ immediately adjacent to the current study area, as well as further excavation just to the northeast, encountered archaeological resource relating to the Bishop's Settlement, thereby indicating that the general area does retain archaeological evidence and potential relating to this phase of occupation of Honeysuckle Point.

Therefore, it is considered that overall the majority of the HCCD has moderate potential to retain evidence of an archaeological resource/relics associated with Phase 1 use of the study area, with the exclusion of the northwestern part of Site 1 (consistent with the Stage 1A development study area), which is located in an area of land reclamation.

Therefore, there is no potential for an archaeological resource relating to Phase 1 of historical development to be present within the Stage 1A study area.

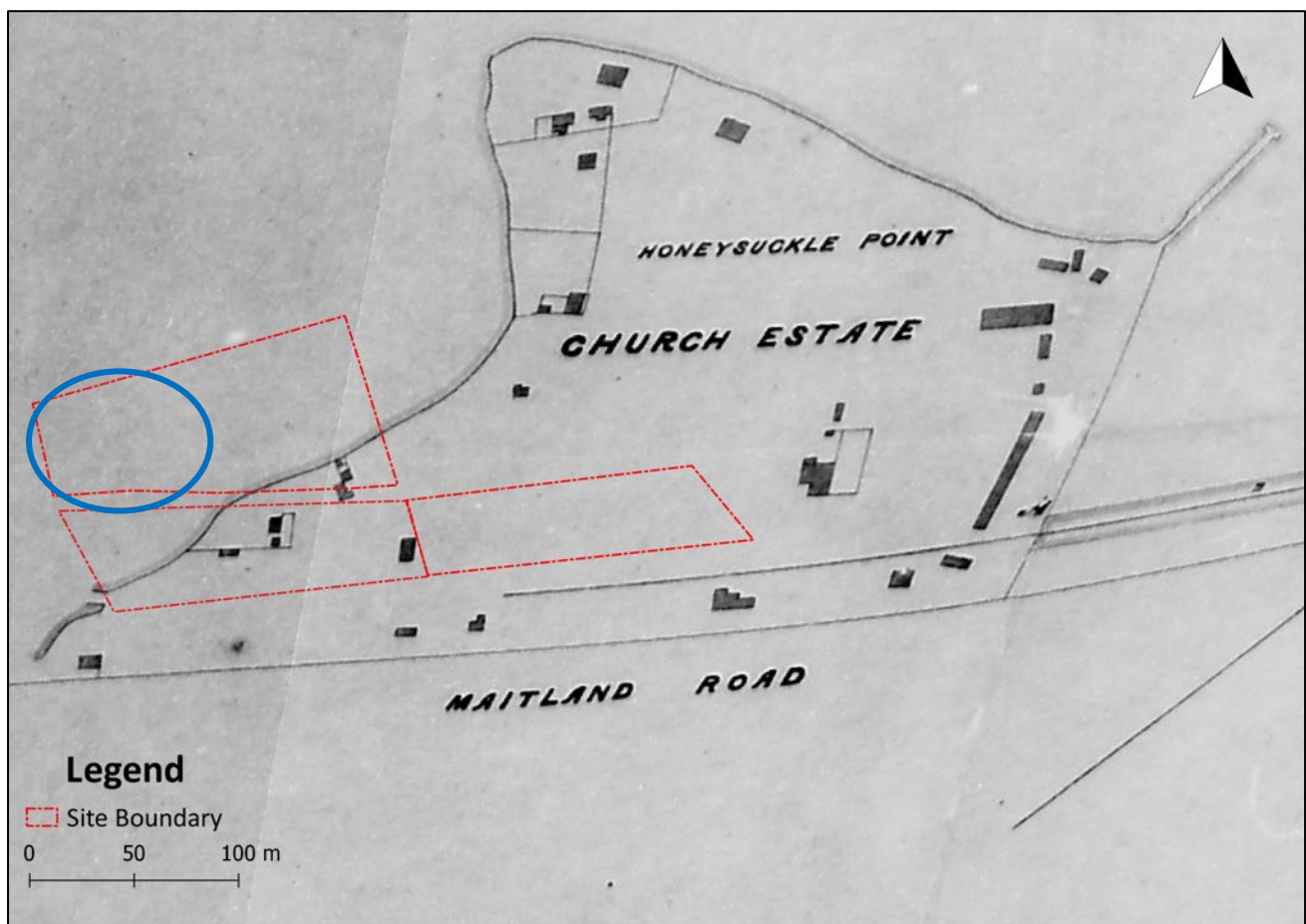


FIGURE 5.2: EARLY HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE HCCD, LOCATION OF THE STAGE 1A DEVELOPMENT INDICATED BY THE BLUE CIRCLE (SOURCE: CURIO 2018)

5.2.2 Phase 2—Reshaping the Harbour and Railway Expansion (c.1857–1933)

Phase 2 use of the study area relates to the establishment of the Honeysuckle Railway Workshops (1857), and the main modification and land reclamation works to Honeysuckle Point (c. early 1900s).

³³ AMAC 2012, *Lee Wharf Development: Square-about and Lot 24 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle—Final Archaeological Report*, prepared for Caverstock Group Pty Ltd on behalf of Lee Wharf Developments Pty Ltd.

Archaeological evidence relating to Phase 2 use of the site that has the potential to remain within the wider HCCD study area includes the structural remains/footings of Mortuary Station (1883–1933: ‘described as a small weatherboard building in rustic style’³⁴); the Engine Turntable (known to be in situ within Site 2); structure remains and associated artefacts of other original and early rail workshops buildings (e.g. Building 7—Per Way Bridge Shop, Building 25—Former Shed, Building 28—Per Way Pattern Shop, Building 30—Per Way Foundry); and evidence of land reclamation activities associated with Phase 2 use.’

The Stage 1A has a low potential to present with archaeological evidence associated with land reclamation works within the harbour.

The Stage 1A development area is located in the northwest of the HCCD site, not associated with the known location of any structures from Phase 2 historical use of the site (Figure 5.3). Therefore, there is **low to potential** for an archaeological resource relating to Phase 2 of historical development to be present within the Stage 1A study area.



FIGURE 5.3: OVERLAY OF 1896 PLAN OF CIVIC RAILWAY WORKSHOPS, LOCATION OF THE STAGE 1A DEVELOPMENT INDICATED IN BLUE (SOURCE: CURIO 2018)

5.2.3 Phase 3—Civic Railway Workshops and Decline (1933–1990s)

Phase 3 historical use of the study area relates to the ongoing use of the study area as the Civic Railway Workshops from 1933, until its closure in the early 1990s. Potential archaeological resources and relics related to this period may include other ephemeral/minor structures associated with the later use of the Civic Railway Workshops, archaeological resources associated with the construction and early facilities of Civic Railway Station (c.1937), in situ rail stock and sleepers etc.

³⁴ Doring, C & M.J., 1991

There is **low potential** for an archaeological resource relating to Phase 3 of historical development to be present within the Stage 1A study area (Figure 5.4).



FIGURE 5.4: OVERLAY OF 1990S PLAN OF CIVIC RAILWAY WORKSHOPS, LOCATION OF THE STAGE 1A DEVELOPMENT INDICATED IN BLUE (SOURCE: CURIO 2018)

5.2.4 Phase 4—Honeysuckle Precinct (1990s–Current)

Following demolition of railway buildings, the study area has not been subject to any substantial development, and currently exists as a vacant lot, and carparks. Therefore, there is no archaeological potential associated with Phase 4 use of the study area.

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL WITHIN STAGE 1A DEVELOPMENT AREA

Historical Phase	Activity or Development	Potential Archaeological Evidence	Archaeological Potential/Likelihood of Survival within Subject Site
Phase 1—Early Settlement	Early activities	No Potential	No Potential
Phase 2—Reshaping the Harbour	Honeysuckle Rail Workshops	No Potential	No Potential
	Land Reclamation	Evidence associated with dredging/land reclamation/techniques used in the major 1908 seawall construction and filling	Low
Phase 3—Civic Railway Workshops	Civic Railway Workshops	Structural remains of ephemeral/minor/unrecorded structures associated with	Low

Historical Phase	Activity or Development	Potential Archaeological Evidence	Archaeological Potential/Likelihood of Survival within Subject Site
		the later use of the Civic Railway Workshops	
	Civic Railway Workshops	In situ rail tracks and rail stock etc	Low

5.3 Summary of Archaeological Potential

Due to the location of the Stage 1A development of the University HCCD within an area of land reclamation zone, generally located away from the bulk of the former Civic Railway Workshops, there is a generally low potential for an archaeologically significant resource to be encountered.

5.3.1 Historical Archaeological Potential

Overall, it is considered that there is low to no potential for a historical archaeological resource to be present within Lot A1. Should any archaeological resource remain in this location, it would likely only represent ephemeral use of the area during the historical phases of use of the site, and would be unlikely to be of any archaeological significance. While it is also possible that stratified layers of land reclamation may be present, it is not suggested that there would be any historical significance associated with this.

However, an Unexpected Find Policy should still be developed for the Stage 1A development, to provide procedures to follow should an unexpected historical archaeological resource be encountered.

5.3.2 Aboriginal Archaeological Potential

The ACHAR has suggested that Aboriginal cultural material has a low potential to be present within a highly disturbed context within Stage 1A development area. This would most likely be in the form of shell material and isolated stone objects. While individual artefacts may have some social significance to the Aboriginal community, they would have no archaeological significance.

The Stage 1A development works will have no potential to impact any intact or in situ Aboriginal archaeological deposits.

6.0 Heritage Significance Assessment

6.1 Introduction

The *NSW Heritage Manual Guideline—Assessing Heritage Significance*, prepared by the NSW Heritage Division, provide a framework for assessing significance of sites and heritage items, with the main aim of producing a succinct statement of significance to summarise an item or site's heritage values. The guidelines are predicated on the five types of cultural heritage value, as presented in The Burra Charter 2013: historical, aesthetic, scientific, social, and spiritual significance. The NSW heritage assessment criteria provides the following criterion for the assessment of heritage significance.

An item will be considered to be of State (or local) heritage significance if, in the opinion of the Heritage Council of NSW, it meets one of more of the following criteria:

- *Criterion (a)—an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);*
- *Criterion (b)—an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the cultural or natural history of NSW (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);*
- *Criterion (c)—an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area);*
- *Criterion (d)—an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;*
- *Criterion (e)—an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);*
- *Criterion (f)—an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);*
- *Criterion (g)—an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's (or a class of the local areas):*
 - *cultural or natural places; or*
 - *cultural or natural environments.*

6.2 Nearby Heritage Listings

The following section provides a summary of the significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas that are located within, or in close proximity to the study area. An understanding of the surrounding heritage items can assist in the determination of any heritage significance directly associated with the study area itself.

6.2.1 Newcastle City Centre HCA (LEP 2012, Local)

Section 5.07 of the DCP provides the Statement of Significance for the Newcastle City Centre HCA as:

The Newcastle City Centre Heritage Conservation Area is significant on many levels. The mix of commercial, retail, and civic buildings is a powerful reminder of the city's past, its economic and social history. Historic buildings provide the backdrop to a city of dramatic topography on the

edge of sea and the mouth of a harbour. The pre-1840s buildings in the city are of state significance (Rose Cottage, c.1830, Newcomen Club, 1830, parts of James Fletcher Hospital) and share associations with the city's convict origins. Newcastle has a rich archaeological record of national significance, with the potential to yield information about the early convict settlement and early industrial activities. The city area is known to have been a place of contact between colonists and the indigenous population. This evidence is available in historical accounts and in the archaeological record surviving beneath the modern city. The high numbers of commercial and civic buildings of the 19th and 20th centuries gives the city a rich historic character which is notable and allows an understanding of the importance of the city as a place of commerce, governance and city building. The historical foundation of the city was the discovery and exploitation of coal with good shipping access via a safe and navigable harbour. The town's layout by Surveyor General Henry Dangar in 1828 is still visible in the city's streets, and is an element of historical value, particularly in the vicinity of Thorn, Keightley, Hunter and Market Streets.³⁵

To summarise, the Newcastle City Centre HCA has local significance predominantly for its historical, historical associations, social and aesthetic values. The HCA forms the urban core and historic centre of the Newcastle CBD, with many heritage items providing a physical reminder of Newcastle's rich history and penal heritage. The HCA also has scientific significance for the demonstrated rich archaeological record (archaeology of local, State and National significance), including further archaeological potential, particularly the potential for archaeology of the early convict settlement.

6.2.2 Civic Railway Workshops Group (SHR, State)

The State Heritage Register listing for the Civic Railway Workshops Group provides the following Statement of Significance:

Civic Railway Workshops is one of the outstanding industrial workshop sites in the State and an excellent example of a Victorian workshop group that display continuity, excellence in design and execution and add to the townscape of Newcastle as well as play an important role in the history of the railway in the area. The whole group is of highest significance in the State. Construction of workshops in Newcastle was brought about for two reasons: separation of the Great Northern lines from the main system from 1857 to 1889; and in recognition of the exclusive facilities and rolling stock required to handle coal traffic.

The Lee Wharf site has the potential to contain historical archaeological remains, including remains of State significance. Some may lie within the boundary of the State Heritage Register Listing. Others may lay outside that boundary.³⁶

The Civic Railway Workshops Group is of State significance predominantly for its aesthetic significance as the only remaining example of a Railway Workshops that demonstrates the design principles and technology applied to small railway workshops buildings in the 1870s and 1880s in Southeastern Australia. The Civic Railway Workshops Group also has social significance for its important role in the development of Newcastle town.

6.2.3 Civic Railway Station Group (s170, Local)

The s170 listing provides the following Statement of Significance for the Civic Railway Station Group:

³⁵ Newcastle City Council DCP 2012, Section 5.07: 4-5

³⁶ Civic Railway Workshops Group State Heritage Register Listing, Available from: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5044977>

Civic Railway Station Group is significant at a local level as part of an important municipal precinct for its direct associations with developing a new civic centre for Newcastle in the 1930s, represented both in name and a new architectural style. The station building is the first Interwar Functionalist railway building in NSW to employ domestic architectural features, demonstrating the NSW Railways experimentation with new styles during the Interwar period.

The site is also significant as the former 1857 Newcastle (Honeysuckle) terminus station on the Great Northern Railway line, one of the first railway lines in Australia that was for many years a significant connection point in the state for the transport of goods by land and sea. The site has archaeological potential associated with the original Honeysuckle station and former Honeysuckle Railway Workshops.

The footbridge is unique as the only known example of this structure constructed on brick piers. The footbridge was identified as an item of exceptional heritage significance in the 2016 'Railway Footbridges Heritage Conservation Strategy'. The footbridge is a good representative example of brick substructure (piers) and brick stair balustrades. It is the last footbridge constructed using a haunched beam deck support. The footbridge is an integral part of a relatively intact railway station precinct from the 1930s.³⁷

Generally, it can be stated that the main heritage significance of the Civic Railway Station Group relates to its direct associations with developing a new civic centre for Newcastle in the 1930s (constructed at a similar time to the Newcastle City Town Hall and Civic Theatre), as well as for aesthetic significance related to the existing railway footbridge. The Civic Railway Station Group has heritage significance at a local level.

6.2.4 Civic Theatre (SHR, LEP 2012, State and local)

The heritage listing for the Newcastle Civic Theatre provides the following statement of heritage significance (Local Heritage Item #1418 and SHR #01883):

The Civic Theatre is of state significance under a number of criteria as one of the finest theatre buildings in New South Wales having been designed by prominent theatre architect Henry Eli White, architect of Sydney's State and Capitol Theatres. It is one of few surviving late-1920s atmospheric theatres in the country. The building is a finely crafted example of the Georgian Revival style, employed on a large scale. Along with the Newcastle Club and the BHP Administration Building, it represents the influence of this style in the Hunter Region. The theatre's largely intact interior is considered to be an outstanding example of the Spanish/Moroccan style. The building is also an important townscape element, being part of the civic cultural precinct, located adjacent to the City Hall (also designed by White at the same time as the City administration and council chambers) and reflects Newcastle's status as the state's second capital at the time of the theatre's construction. The theatre has operated almost continuously as an entertainment venue since 1929 and continues to be a focus of social and cultural activity, highly valued by the citizens of Newcastle for its outstanding historical, aesthetic and social significance and rarity.³⁸

While the Civic Theatre is well outside of the current HCCD study area, it has been included here due to its State heritage significance, and its general proximity to the study area, to ensure any potential visual impact to the Civic Theatre posed by the development are adequately assessed. Of relevance to the HCCD

³⁷ State Heritage Inventory Listing—Civic Railway Station Group, Accessed 3.5.18 from <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=4801623>

³⁸ State Heritage Inventory Listing—Civic Theatre, Accessed 3.5.18 from: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5060931>

development, the Civic Theatre has aesthetic significance at State level as one of the few surviving examples of late-1920s atmospheric theatres in Australia, as well as its established visual relationship with Newcastle City Hall.

6.3 Aboriginal Heritage Significance

The following summary of Aboriginal cultural heritage and archaeological significance has been extracted from the HCCD Stage 2 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report, prepared by Curio Projects to support this development stage (Curio Projects 2019a).

The overall HCCD site has been identified to possess high social, cultural and spiritual significance to the Awabakal, Guringai and Worimi people, as a place of both historical, as well as continuing contemporary, connection to Country. Aboriginal sites in the region can serve to 'link contemporary Awabakal and Guringai people with generations of their ancestors and are extremely important teaching places and places of spiritual renewal'. The location of the site, close to the Hunter River and in the Greater Newcastle area, is an area that is, and has been in the past, provided resources for Awabakal people that have been hunted and collected for thousands of years. The study area is not just an isolated site, but connected to many Cultural Heritage sites across this region and within Awabakal Traditional Country, which should be viewed on a whole as a Cultural Landscape.

The location of the HCCD study area along the original Honeysuckle foreshore is part of a key landscape in the history of Aboriginal and European contact in Newcastle, as a documented point of first contact between Aboriginal people and the early European colonists in the Newcastle area, where Awabakal and Guringai people experienced the first stages of dispossession from their land. Archaeological evidence that may provide a tangible connection to this aspect of the history of the study area and surrounds (i.e. post-contact Aboriginal artefacts) is likely to be of high historical significance.

While the nature and extent of any Aboriginal archaeological deposit at the study area is not currently known, should an Aboriginal archaeological deposit be present, given the location of the study area across the Honeysuckle foreshore it would potentially be of moderate research potential (high research potential should post-contact sites be present), with low to moderate education potential, and potentially moderate significance as part of the wider Honeysuckle and Newcastle CBD Aboriginal archaeological landscape.

While the cultural significance of the study area and surrounds is likely to be more related to the intangible values over aesthetic values of the Honeysuckle region (due to high levels of historical land modification), its general positioning along the culturally significant location of the original Honeysuckle foreshore suggests that the study area may have moderate aesthetic significance.³⁹

Stage 1A Footprint

The above Statement of Significance has been prepared to relate to the wider overall University of Newcastle HCCD site, including Sites 1, 2 and 3. However, the current ACHAR refers specifically to proposed development works within the Stage 1A phase of the development (i.e. construction of Building A1 in the northwest of Site 1). Therefore, a revised statement of significance has been prepared specific to the Building A1 location.

³⁹ Curio Projects 2019a: 63-64

The Stage 1A study area is located in the northwest of Site 1, i.e. wholly within reclaimed land, formerly located within Throsby Creek/Hunter River, and therefore has no potential to contain an intact in situ Aboriginal archaeological deposit.

Therefore, while the social, historical, and aesthetic values of the wider UON HCCD study area still apply to the Stage 1A location, the scientific (archaeological) value differs due to the limited ability for this location to yield an Aboriginal archaeological deposit. The location of the Stage 1A study area wholly within reclaimed land, means that there is no potential for an intact, in situ Aboriginal archaeological deposit to be present in this location, as Stage 1A location would have been originally located within the river.

While the Aboriginal artefact site identified and registered through the archaeological field survey of Site 1 was located within the Stage 1A lot (i.e. 'UoN1A-1'), an AHIP has been sought to apply to this registered site. At the time of writing in December 2018, the AHIP for the Stage 1A Enabling Works was still under assessment by the OEH, however, by the time that the Stage 1A development works have been approved and are ready to commence on site, the AHIP will have been issued to allow impact to the 'UoN1A-1' site.

6.4 Historical Archaeological Significance

An Archaeological Assessment report (AA) was prepared for the wider HCCD study area by Curio Projects (2018b), and further expanded upon in the Historical Archaeological Research Design (ARD) for the Stage 1A Enabling Works DA.⁴⁰ The AA and ARD undertook a detailed assessment of the historical archaeological significance of the study area, a summary of which, is presented below. The Statement of Archaeological Significance for historical archaeology relevant to the wider HCCD site has been extracted from the AA, and is presented below. Section 6.4.2 provides a revision of the archaeological significance, specific to the Stage 1A SSD development works.

6.4.1 Statement of Significance—HCCD Site

The study area is located adjacent to the SHR curtilage for the Civic Railway Workshops and was once a part of these workshops. The industrial buildings of the Honeysuckle Point/Civic Railway Workshops manufactured industrial materials, infrastructure and equipment for the introduction, function, and maintenance of rail operations in the Newcastle and Hunter Valley region for almost 150 years. Archaeological evidence that can contribute to the archaeological record relating to the function, location, form of the rail workshops would have archaeological research potential.

It should also be noted that the Civic Railway Workshops that were formally located within the study area were only demolished in the 1990s (and were well recorded and photographed prior to removal), with those buildings assessed to be of the highest significance, retained within the current SHR listing. Therefore, structural remains associated with former Honeysuckle/Civic Railway Workshops may have associative significance at a State level for its relationship with the SHR site (and therefore would require archaeological monitoring/excavation if present), however the archaeological remains themselves are unlikely to contribute further knowledge to our understanding of the historical form and function of the Honeysuckle/Civic Railway Workshops.

*It is considered that the study area has the potential to retain an archaeological resource of **local** significance relating either to evidence for the early settlement of Honeysuckle Point (Bishop's Settlement), or to evidence it can contribute to the archaeological record relating to the function*

⁴⁰ Curio Projects 2018d. *Historical Archaeological Research Design, University of Newcastle HCCD, Stage 1A Enabling Works*, report prepared for University of Newcastle

*of the site as the Honeysuckle Point/Civic Railway Workshops, for a continuous period of almost 150 years. Significance of archaeological evidence relating to the Railway Workshops period of site use would depend on the nature, extent and condition of the deposit, and could meet the criterion for **either local or State** significance.*

*The Engine Turntable, known to be located within Site 2, is of **State** significance for its research potential, and aesthetic values, as likely one of the oldest surviving railway relics in NSW (c.1857). The significance of the Turntable likely warrants in situ retention.⁴¹*

6.4.2 Stage 1A SSD Specific

While the University of Newcastle HCCD site is recognised as having potential for an archaeological resource and relics that would be of local (early settlement of Honeysuckle Point, Bishops Settlement), or State significance (evidence associated with the use of the site as the Honeysuckle/Civic Railway Workshops), the specific location of the Stage 1A study area, in the northwest corner of the wider site, has low to no potential to contain an archaeological resource of this nature.

Therefore, while the wider HCCD site has the potential for archaeologically significant relics, which will require further investigation during future development stages, should any potential (unexpected) archaeological resource be present within the Stage 1A development area, any such resource would be highly unlikely to meet the criteria for local or State significance.

6.5 Summary of Heritage Significance for HCCD, Stage 1A SSD

The majority of the study area was originally part of the wider Honeysuckle/Civic Railway Workshops (the remaining buildings of which are contained within the curtilage of the State heritage register listing of 'Civic Railway Workshops Group'). No built heritage items are located within the study area itself. Therefore, the heritage significance of the study area relates mainly to the potential archaeological deposit (both Aboriginal and historical) that may be present within the study area, as well as in relation to the proximity to the former Civic Railway Workshops, adjacent to Civic Railway Station Group, and within the Newcastle City Centre HCA.

The wider HCCD study area may have historical archaeological research significance at local level for any archaeological evidence associated with Phase 1 (Bishop's Settlement) early site occupation, the archaeological remains of Mortuary Station (Phase 2), or other archaeological evidence relating to land reclamation processes. Significance of archaeological evidence relating to the Railway Workshops period of site use would depend on the nature, extent and condition of the deposit, and could meet the criterion for either local or State significance.

However, the location of the Stage 1A study area (Lot A1), in the northwest of the HCCD site, has been assessed as having low to no potential for a historical archaeological resource to be present. Should any archaeological resource remain in this location, it would likely only represent ephemeral use of the area during the historical phases of use of the site, and would be unlikely to be of any archaeological significance. While it is also possible that stratified layers of land reclamation may be present, it is not suggested that there would be any historical significance associated with this.

The Stage 1A study area is located in the northwest of Site 1, i.e. wholly within reclaimed land, formerly located within Throsby Creek/Hunter River, and therefore has no potential to contain an intact in situ Aboriginal archaeological deposit.

⁴¹ Curio Projects 2018b. Archaeological Assessment for University of Newcastle, Honeysuckle Campus, report prepared for University of Newcastle.

Therefore, while the social, historical, and aesthetic values of the wider UON HCCD study area still apply to the Stage 1A location, the scientific (archaeological) value differs due to the limited ability for this location to yield an Aboriginal archaeological deposit. The location of the Stage 1A study area wholly within reclaimed land, means that there is no potential for an intact, in situ Aboriginal archaeological deposit to be present in this location, as Stage 1A location would have been originally located within the river.

7.0 Description of Stage 1A Development

7.1 University of Newcastle HCCD Development—Concept Plan

The University of Newcastle is seeking to expand its presence in the CBD of Newcastle and has acquired three parcels of land within the Honeysuckle Precinct. The three sites are proposed to house the Honeysuckle City Campus Development (HCCD), intended to be a large scale academic precinct.

At present, the HCCD development is proposed to be completed over multiple stages (see Figure 7.1 for proposed building locations reference):

- Stage 1A—Construction of Building A1 (Site 1);
- Stage 1B—Construction of Building B (Site 2);
- Stage 2—Construction of Building A2 (Site 1);
- Stage 3—Construction of Building C (Site 1)
- Stage 4—Construction of Buildings D, E & F (Site 2 & 3)

As nominated in the Concept Master Plan Report (COX Architecture, October 2017), if all sites are developed, the campus will have a total yield of 62,574 m² gross floor area (GFA), comprised of the following:

- Academic space - 50,746 m² GFA (approximately 800 staff & 4,380 students)
- Student accommodation - 11,828 m² GFA (394 beds)

The Concept Plan for the University HCCD was prepared in June 2018 by Cox Architecture. The development of the HCCD Master Plan was guided by several key design principles as follows (summarised from the Cox 2017 report (p.50-51))

- *Engaged.* Designed to create a strong visible UON presence in the Newcastle CBD, with safe and open connections, creation of an urban campus that is integrated with the CBD, creation of visual and physical links in the built form and public domain.
- *Unique.* Create vibrant and attractive destination, respond to unique history by reinterpreting locomotive, industrial and indigenous heritage of the place through opportunities in design of public domain, landscape and building spaces.
- *Sustainable.* World class sustainable facility, reinforce UON's relationship with wider Newcastle community, socially, environmentally and economically sustainable.

The Concept Plan identified several key features, relevant to the development of Stage 1A of the HCCD project (which have been built upon for the schematic and detailed design of Building A1). These included:

- Built form to respond to target floor space, existing LEP controls, as well as the requirements to meet academic and student accommodation requirements.
- A high quality and safe public domain solution for the development providing a common setting for the buildings and enhancing user's experience of the site.
- A common materials palette appropriate to the place and the environment of the HCCD, that will serve to unify the buildings, reinforcing the contemporary and modern expression of the buildings within the precinct.
- Acknowledgement of opportunities within the development site for the integration of heritage elements and interpretation into the detailed design.



FIGURE 7.1: UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE HCCD—CONCEPT PLAN PROPOSED BUILDINGS (SOURCE: COX ARCHITECTURE 2017)

7.2 HCCD Stage 1A Development

Stage 1A of the HCCD development is focused on the construction of a four-storey building located in Lot A1 (see location in Figure 7.1 above), intended for use as the 'Innovation Hub and School of Creative Industries' within the new university campus. At the time of writing, enabling works for the site have been submitted as a DA to Council, and are expected to be approved shortly, allowing the enabling works within Site 1 to be undertaken in advance of the Stage 1A development. The Enabling Works will include the installation of a number of service trenches (electrical, sewer, water and telecommunications), as well as some topsoil stripping and filling across the majority of the site in order to raise the ground level on site to minimal habitation level as required by Council.

The HCCD Concept Plan identified Building A1 (Lot A1) as the first site for development within the overall project. The vision for the Stage 1A project has been conceived as a "Stage within the City" to expose the theatre of creation and innovation' (EJE Architecture), to eventually function as the western gateway to the overall HCCD site. Following from this vision, the resulting design is described as 'a working gallery that showcases the activities within and serves as an artistic installation within the urban fabric, providing a contemporary canvas for light and display' (EJE Architecture 2018) (Figure 7.2).

The architectural design of Building A1 is as an open and contemporary building, built form to be separated into a podium to generate activity at street level, backed by a minimalistic three storey tower element with a highly transparent façade with visible internal timber structure, developed with engineering services and sustainable design approach to create a world class technology enabled building.

The main development works to be undertaken during the Stage 1A development of the HCCD site relate to the overall construction of Building A1, including:

- Overall construction of Building A1;
- Subsurface construction works including:

- Construction of suspended reinforced concrete slab ground floor structure, supported by 39 steel support piles (800mm diameter with a pile cap of 1.1m x 1.1m wide x 1m deep);
- Installation of a concrete elevator shaft to the south of the building;
- Introduction of a Rain Water Tank, OSD Tank, and Fire Detention Tank (located at a lower ground level than the other development works); and
- Construction of concrete pavements outside of the building footprint;
- General public domain and landscaping works in the immediate vicinity of Building A1.



FIGURE 7.2: PROPOSED RENDER OF BUILDING A1 (SOURCE: EJE ARCHITECTURE)

7.2.1 Built Form

As presented above, the built form of Building A1 has been designed to create a contemporary and open building, allowing for highly flexible use of space for creation and innovation. The built form and aesthetic design of Building A1 has been developed with a view to the building functioning as a landmark and gateway for the new City Campus of the University of Newcastle.

The building form is separated into a podium and tower element. The podium has been designed to generate activity at street level and is envisaged as an extension of the urban setting. The materiality is largely transparent along the street frontages (discussed further below). The podium exposes the structure at the façade line and affords connections to the external awning that weaves around the building podium.

The three storey tower element will be minimalistic and provide a high-level canvas for students, teachers and innovators to project digital representations of their diverse work for the city for public viewing (Figure 7.3). The contemporary digital veil allows the primary building façade to be a sophisticated energy efficient membrane free of appendages that may disrupt views of the inner workings of the innovative and creative endeavours within. On dusk it has the ability to transform into a vibrant kinetic display or gallery. (EJE Architecture 2018).



FIGURE 7.3: EXAMPLE OF DIGITAL PROJECTION ON BUILDING A1 (SOURCE: EJE ARCHITECTURE)

7.2.2 Structural Design

The base structural frame of Building A1 will be of sustainable timber (exposed within the building interiors), supported at ground level by suspended reinforced concrete slabs spanning onto integral ground beams which in turn are supported on piles. No basement or other extensive excavation is proposed for Building A1.

The sections below provide description of subsurface works required for the development (as will be relevant to the archaeological assessment for the development).

Piling and Elevator Shaft

Piling will be required in locations across the building footprint in order to support the suspended concrete slabs and beams. The HCCD Stage 1A proposes the installation of 39 steel screw piles on a grid across the building footprint. The piles themselves would be 800mm in diameter to a depth of approximately 10m below ground level, with a pile cap size of 1.1m x 1.1m wide x 1m deep (Figure 7.4).

To provide the appropriate elevator shaft servicing and overrun requirements, minor excavation will be undertaken up to 1m below the existing surface levels into the existing fill (i.e. reclaimed land) in this location. Similar to the ground floor, a suspended concrete slab will sit on six of the aforementioned piles in order to support the base of the new elevator shaft.

Water and OSD Tanks

The Building A1 design also proposes the installation of a new OSD and new rain water tank, to be located on the northern side of the building (visible in blue in Figure 7.4), proposed to be located c. 2m below the finished ground floor level. A 25KL Fire Detention tank will also be required to accommodate the fire sprinklers and hydrants within the building. This will be located to the south of the building at 6.5m x 2m wide and 2m deep below final surface levels.

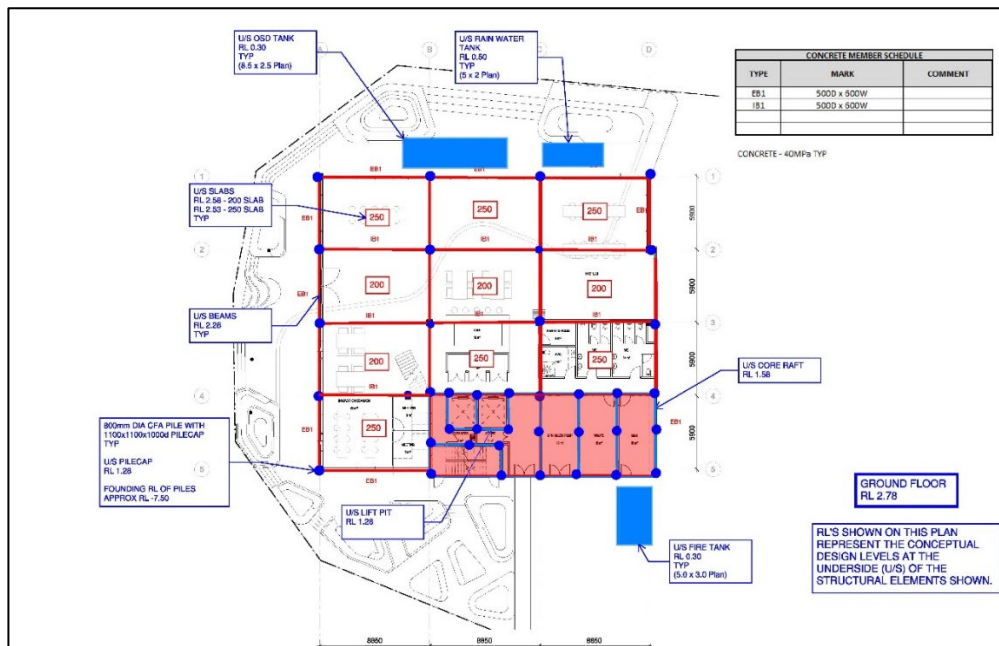
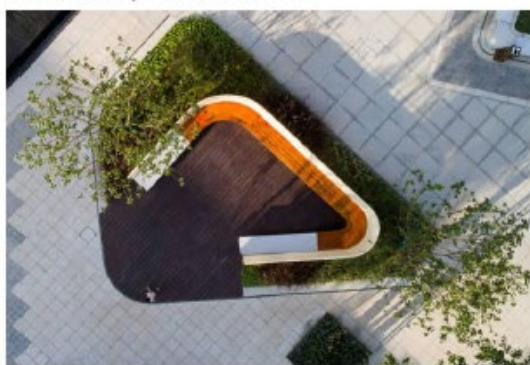


FIGURE 7.4: SUBSTRUCTURE PLAN FOR PROPOSED BUILDING A1 FOR STAGE 1A WORKS, PILES AND GRIDDED CONCRETE SLAB (SOURCE: AURECON 2018, REV B)

7.2.3 Landscaping and Public Domain

The landscape design for the Stage 1A development makes use of the generous curtilage around the building footprint to create a zone for activity that extends beyond the building façade line. Landscaping for the HCCD Stage 1A will use the existing level changes within the site to form tiers, troughs and steps (Figure 7.5). The forms of the landscaping and public domain have been designed using the converging lines of the original riverbank, with design elements likened to the ripples in the water, forming organic lines to contrast with the efficiency of the orthogonal building footprint (EJE Architecture 2019). Minimal excavation is intended for these landscaped areas with only minor level changes matching into the existing surface levels.

Landscape elements



Seating pods



Organic planters



Timber seat along planter

FIGURE 7.5: LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS (SOURCE: EJE ARCHITECTURE 2019)



FIGURE 7.6: BUILDING A1 LANDSCAPE PLAN (SOURCE: EJE ARCHITECTURE 2019)



FIGURE 7.7: BUILDING A1 PUBLIC DOMAIN/LANDSCAPING DESIGN (SOURCE: EJE ARCHITECTURE 2018)

7.2.4 Colour Palette and Materiality

The proposed colour palette and materiality of Building A1 will reflect the contemporary and lightweight innovative design of the building, with the bulk of the building façade and aesthetic as a contemporary clear glazed glass canvas, with views into the building of the internal timber structure. Other building materials have been selected to be light in colour, in predominantly neutral tones, using contemporary and lightweight materials to complement the open design of the building. The design includes use of materials such as translucent steel framed awnings, polished concrete and cross laminated timber (Figure 7.8) in order to achieve the development aim of an open and contemporary building with minimalistic elements.



FIGURE 7.8: BUILDING A1 MATERIALITY AND COLOUR PALETTE (SOURCE: EJE ARCHITECTURE 2018)

7.2.5 Heritage Interpretation

The University of Newcastle HCCD Stage 1A Concept Design Report, prepared by EJE Architecture (2018), proposed several opportunities for heritage to be introduced into the specific design of Building A1. The design intent proposes: a representation of an Aboriginal midden site to be incorporated into the polished concrete floor of the ground floor; acknowledgement of the natural heritage of the landscape through the shaping of the tiers, troughs and stairs within the building design; and use of materials to pay homage to the former use of the site as the Honeysuckle Railway Workshops.

While these proposals are currently only part of the design intent of the building, they represent opportunities for future refinement and development of heritage interpretation within Building A1, particularly in relation to Aboriginal heritage interpretation opportunities.

8.0 Assessment of Heritage Impacts

While no individual heritage items are located directly within Lot A1, nor within the curtilage of any Heritage Conservation Area, the development of Building A1 must be considered within its heritage context in order to identify any potential impact the future building may present to the heritage values of the surrounds.

Assessment of heritage impact also includes identification of any potential archaeological deposits (Aboriginal and/or historical), and whether the proposed development is likely to impact on any potential archaeological resource.

Therefore, the Statement of Heritage Impact as presented in this section relates to the overall potential visual impacts that the HCCD Stage 1A works for the development may have on heritage items and potential archaeology within and immediately adjacent to the study area. Heritage impacts relating to specific development design of future buildings within the HCCD will be assessed through subsequent staged DAs.

The Stage 1A development will present no physical impact to an individual heritage item or heritage fabric.

8.1 Visual Impacts

The HCCD study area is currently surrounded by a mix of modern, large, multi-storey developments (e.g. Chifley complex across Settlement Lane, new development along the Honeysuckle Precinct waterfront etc), as well as some older two storey commercial and residential buildings along Hunter Street (within the Newcastle City Centre HCA). Therefore, the existing established views around and within the study area currently consists of a relatively mixed character, both with regards to style and form of built items, as well as to bulk and massing.

The discussion of potential impacts as discussed here, relates both to the acknowledgement of any existing views and vistas to and from nearby heritage items and curtilages, as well as in the context of the proposed HCCD as 'infill development' within the Newcastle City Centre HCA in accordance with the NCC DCP 2012. Building design for the stages of development of the HCCD should respect the design and character of the HCA and existing buildings, to be sympathetic in scale, form, orientation and setback with the context of surrounding development (both heritage and modern).

8.1.1 Civic Railway Workshops Group

As identified in the HIS for the HCCD Concept Plan (Curio Projects 2018), one of the key considerations with regards to heritage for the HCCD development is the views to and from the State heritage registered Civic Railway Workshops Group. The location of Building A1 is located along the most western boundary of the HCCD, at a significant distance from the Railway Workshops Site. Any potential views lines between Lot A1 and the SHR site are obscured by intervening development (i.e. Chifley Building) and distance (Figure 7.9 and Figure 7.10).

Therefore, Building A1 will have no visual impact to the setting or character of the Civic Railway Workshops Group.



FIGURE 7.9: PROPOSED SITE 3 LOCATION (CARPARK) IS IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO STATE HERITAGE ITEM (RIGHT OF IMAGE), VIEW WEST. BUILDING A1 WILL NOT BE VISIBLE FROM SHR CURTILAGE (SOURCE: CURIO 2018)



FIGURE 7.10: VIEW EAST ALONG WRIGHT LANE, FROM BETWEEN SITE 1 AND 2. POTENTIAL VIEWS TO CIVIC RAILWAY WORKSHOPS GROUP COMPLETELY OBSCURED BY CHIFLEY COMPLEX (SOURCE: CURIO 2018)

8.1.2 Other Heritage Items and HCA

As the first stage of construction of the HCCD, Building A1 will initially be visible from the Newcastle City Centre HCA, and Civic Station, until subsequent buildings are constructed to the south and east which are likely to completely obscure any views between Building 1A and the HCA/Civic Station. Regardless, the contemporary and open form of Building A1 is considered to have a neutral visual impact on the heritage values of the HCA and Civic Station. In addition, while of an innovative design and concept (i.e. a lightweight digital canvas) the form of Building A1 will be generally commensurate with the existing context of the modern development within the Honeysuckle Precinct (Figure 7.11).

This assessment has also considered the potential for any view lines between the development and the State heritage listed Civic Theatre, however there will be no direct view lines between the HCCD and the heritage item, obstructed by the existing multi storey building at 438 Hunter Street. Therefore, it is considered that the proposed development will have no visual impact to the Civic Theatre.



FIGURE 7.11: VIEW EAST FROM WESTERN SIDE OF SITE 2, MIX OF RESIDENTIAL AND MODERN DEVELOPMENT VISIBLE SURROUNDING, NEWCASTLE CITY CENTRE HCA IN THE RIGHT OF THE IMAGE (SOURCE: CURIO 2018)

8.1.3 Railway Turntable

The heritage railway turntable located within Site 2 of the study area is currently located below ground within a grassed area surrounded by a fence (Figure 7.12). The wider HCCD development proposes the revealing of the turntable, and incorporation into the 'Turntable Plaza' and 'Campus Heart' of the public domain and landscaping (Figure 7.13). Building A1 will have no visual impact on the railway table, neither as an individual structure, nor in the wider context of the HCCD development



FIGURE 7.12: TURNTABLE, CURRENTLY BELOW GROUND, SURROUNDED BY FENCING, VIEW EAST (SOURCE: CURIO 2018)



FIGURE 7.13: VISUALISATION OF HCCD CONCEPT PLAN, TURNTABLE PLAZA AND CAMPUS HEART OPEN SPACE VISIBLE IN CENTRE OF IMAGE, BUILDING A1 IN NORTHWEST (SOURCE: COX 2018)

8.1.4 Materiality

The HCCD Concept Plan Design Guidelines proposed use of materials light in colour and predominantly neutral in tone, encouraging the use of natural materials such as concrete and timber, no reflective glass, with a contemporary expression. The adherence to materiality and colour guidelines as detailed within the Concept Plan Design Guidelines would serve to soften and reduce the visual impact of the HCCD development in the context of the surrounding heritage items and HCA, ensuring the new development avoids any adverse visual impact to surrounding heritage values (Curio Projects 2018- Concept Plan HIS).

The proposed materiality and colour palette of the Stage 1A building are in accordance with that proposed in the Concept Plan, and has specifically been designed to be commensurate with the modern context of the development within Honeysuckle Point. In addition, the lightweight and open presentation of the glazed building façade, and use of natural materials and neutral tones will serve to complement the heritage context of the area, without conflicting or detracting from the heritage character of the area (Figure 7.8).

The options for shell aggregate incorporated into the polished concrete pathways in the public domain/landscaping for Building A1 will also provide an opportunity for representation and acknowledgement of Aboriginal history cultural heritage values of the landscape.

Overall, the proposed materiality and colour palette proposed for Building A1 is considered to be acceptable on heritage grounds.

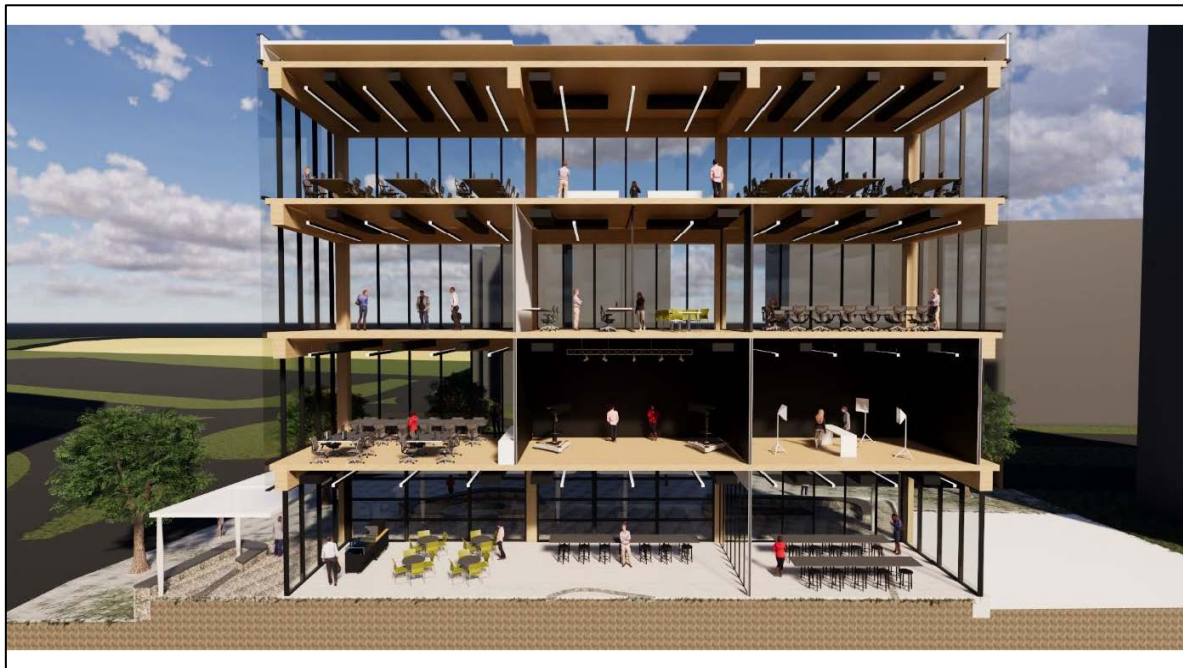


FIGURE 7.14: USE OF NEUTRAL TONES AND NATURAL MATERIALS WILL SOFTEN THE PRESENTATION OF BUILDING A1 IN ITS WIDER HERITAGE CONTEXT (SOURCE: EJE ARCHITECTURE 2018)

8.2 Archaeological Impacts

The Stage 1A Development Works are located wholly within an area of reclaimed land/fill in the northwest corner of Site 1. Therefore, while the Stage 1A development works include piling and minor excavation works for the installation of the reinforced concrete slab and tanks, these subsurface works will have no potential to impact on any intact or in situ Aboriginal archaeological deposit.

While the identification of one artefact site on the surface of Site 1 (within the Stage 1A footprint) confirms the potential for Aboriginal artefacts to be located in a disturbed context within the fill across the site, disturbed sites such as these do not have scientific or archaeological significance and therefore, suggests that targeted archaeological investigation would not be appropriate as a mitigation strategy for Aboriginal cultural heritage relevant to the Stage 1A development works.

In addition, previous geotechnical investigations within the HCCD study area have indicated that the water level is at approximately 2m below ground level within Site 1.

Therefore, the assessment of potential impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage values within the Stage 1A location of the HCCD project, relate mainly to the consideration of cumulative impact to social and cultural values of the site and wider location to the Awabakal people.

8.3 Summary of Heritage Impacts

Due to the location of Stage 1A on reclaimed land and geographically isolated from the surrounding heritage items the potential for impact is relatively low. There will not be any physical impact on any of the historical heritage items and the design of the structure has been chosen to specifically lessen the visual impact. Specifically, the Civic Railway workshops and surrounding fabric have been taken into account, while other items are to be implemented into designs or are not seen to be within visual sightlines of the proposed development.

Even though there are no direct view lines from Lot A1 to significant heritage buildings (i.e. Civic Railway Workshops), the new development has still been designed to present minimal visual impact of the surrounding fabric of the area, achieved through the use of specific styling choices, i.e. steel awning and brick landscape features. The relatively low height of the building (podium plus three storey tower) will also serve to decrease further obfuscation of the surrounding area.

The Archaeological impact can also be seen to be low to nil as the reclaimed land would be highly disturbed material and thus hold low significance. There is potential for isolated Aboriginal items in a disturbed context to be located beneath the surface, however, the development has been designed to impact lightly in the ground surface, with the building sitting on 39 piles with only small excavations of soil for 3 tanks.

8.4 Heritage Interpretation

In order to further reduce the impact of the proposed development of the HCCD to all heritage values identified for the study area, a Heritage Interpretation Strategy should be developed and implemented for the study area. Heritage interpretation initiatives should be built into public domain (including but not limited to the turntable, industrial/rail history, Aboriginal history, any archaeological evidence encountered etc.)

A Heritage Interpretation Strategy would serve to guide the development of interpretative elements, stories and historical themes at the site, bringing the stories of the Aboriginal, industrial and rail history of the site into the public sphere, to enhance the development while celebrating the significant heritage values embodied within the new University campus site.

Some potentially relevant examples for heritage interpretation at the HCCD site could include incorporation of heritage interpretation elements such as relevant heritage quotes and words within new paving, or the use of paving to delineate former archaeological sites/rail buildings etc.

Heritage interpretation can be a very creative, and site-specific process, that can add immensely to the communication of history and heritage values at a site, as well as adding to the user experience and environment of a new development. For example, the University of Newcastle currently is working on a project known as the 'Deep Time Project', which is a Virtual Reality (VR) experience developed from the Aboriginal cultural materials recovered from the archaeological excavation of the former Palais Royale site (KFC) in 2009.⁴² Heritage interpretation initiatives for the HCCD could even seek to collaborate with existing projects such as this, to identify appropriate, effective and unique initiatives for the new University city campus.

As discussed previously, a Heritage Interpretation Strategy has been prepared for the redevelopment of Civic Station.⁴³ The future Heritage Interpretation Strategy for the HCCD site, should, where appropriate, acknowledge the Strategy prepared for Civic Station, particularly with regards to the interface between the HCCD development and Civic Station redevelopment/Civic Link.

⁴² UON Cultural Collections, 9th May 2018, Hunter Living Histories, "Deep Time Virtual Reality—Transforming Humanities in the digital age", accessed 9.5.18, from <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2018/05/09/deep-time-vr/>

⁴³ Tonkin Zulaikha Greer Architects, 2018, *Interpretation Strategy, Civic Station Renewal, Hunter Street, Newcastle*, prepared for Hunter Development Company (May 2018)

9.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

The following conclusions and recommendations are based on the Stage 1A development for Building A1 of the HCCD.

9.1 Conclusions

The following general conclusions are made regarding the heritage values and historical context of the Stage 1A HCCD study area:

- The majority of the HCCD study area was originally part of the wider Honeysuckle/Civic Railway Workshops (the remaining buildings of which are contained within the curtilage of the State heritage register listing of 'Civic Railway Workshops Group').
- The study area is associated with four historical phases of site use and occupation: Phase 1—Early Settlement (1810–1857); Phase 2—Reshaping the Harbour and Railway Expansion (c.1857–1933); Phase 3—Civic Railway Workshops and Decline (1933–1990s); and Phase 4—Honeysuckle Precinct (1990s–Current).
- The general Honeysuckle Point area and southern foreshore of the Hunter River/within the Hunter estuary delta, would have been a significant location for Aboriginal occupation in the Newcastle area.
- Building 1A is located across the west of Site 1, consistent with the area of reclaimed land in this location.
- No individual heritage items are located within the Stage 1A development site.
- The Stage 1A development site is not located within the curtilage of any Heritage Conservation Area or other heritage curtilage.
- The proposed Stage 1A development of the HCCD is located in the west of Site 1, at a significant distance from the bulk of the significant heritage of the area (i.e. the SHR Civic Railway Workshop Group), with all potential view lines to this significant heritage site completely obscured by existing development.

9.1.1 Built Heritage

- The Stage 1A development will present no physical impact to an individual heritage item or heritage fabric.
- The location of Building A1 is located along the most western boundary of the HCCD, at a significant distance from the Railway Workshops Site. Any potential views lines between Lot A1 and the SHR site are obscured by intervening development (i.e. Chifley Building) and distance, and therefore, Building A1 will have no visual impact to the setting or character of the Civic Railway Workshops Group.
- This assessment has also considered the potential for any view lines between the development and the State heritage listed Civic Theatre, Civic Station, and the Newcastle City HCA, however once future building stages of the HCCD are constructed, there will be no direct view lines between the HCCD and any built heritage.
- The contemporary and open form of Building A1 will have a neutral visual impact on the wider heritage values of the area.

- While Building A1 represents an innovative design and concept (i.e. a lightweight digital canvas) the built form of Building A1 will be generally commensurate with the existing context of the modern development within the Honeysuckle Precinct.
- The proposed materiality and colour palette of the Stage 1A building are in accordance with that proposed in the Concept Plan, and has specifically been designed to be commensurate with the modern context of the development within Honeysuckle Point. The lightweight and open presentation of the glazed building façade, and use of natural materials and neutral tones will serve to complement the heritage context of the area, without conflicting or detracting from the heritage character of the area
- Overall, it is considered that Stage 1A (Building A1) of the HCCD will have a neutral visual impact on the heritage values of the surrounding heritage listing curtilages and heritage items.

9.1.2 Historical Archaeology

- While there is moderate to high archaeological potential for structural remains/relics associated with other early railway workshop buildings across the wider HCCD site, the location of Building A1 in the north west of the site, consistent with an area of reclaimed land and not associated with the former location of any major historical structures, it is considered that the Stage 1A development area has no to low potential for any historical archaeological resource to be located in situ within the development footprint.
- An Unexpected Finds Policy should be developed and implemented during construction works, in the case that any unexpected archaeological resource is encountered during works.

9.1.3 Aboriginal Archaeology

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) has been prepared by Curio Projects specific to the Stage 1A development, and should be referenced directly for the assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage and community consultation. A summary of the assessment for the Stage 1A development to impact on potential Aboriginal archaeology (taken from the ACHAR) is presented below.

- The original Honeysuckle shoreline would have extended approximately northeast to southwest through the HCCD site, from the northeastern side of Site 1, across to the southwestern side of Site 2. All of Site 3 would have originally been located along/in close proximity to the original shoreline. All of Stage 1A footprint is located within an area of fill/reclaimed land.
- In situ Aboriginal archaeological deposits are likely to be present within the wider HCCD site where intact original soil profiles remain (i.e. to the southeast of the path of the original Honeysuckle shoreline). Due to levels of historical fill across the entire study area, this potential is unlikely to be accurately reflected in any surface manifestation of Aboriginal artefacts that may be present.
- The Stage 1A development works will have no potential to impact any intact or in situ Aboriginal archaeological deposits.
- There is a moderate potential for isolated Aboriginal artefacts in disturbed contexts to be located within the fill of the Stage 1A footprint. While these disturbed objects would not be of archaeological research potential or significance, they have cultural and social significance to the local Aboriginal community.

- Opportunities to interpret Aboriginal cultural heritage values should be identified for implementation within Building 1A, to be integrated into an overall holistic approach to interpreting the University of Newcastle Honeysuckle City Campus site.
- Aboriginal artefacts have been identified by the community as having tangible heritage significance to the community, and therefore, the Stage 1A works do have the potential to impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage values. However, the minor nature of the Stage 1A works themselves (including the relatively limited ground disturbance, confined to the area of fill/reclaimed land), may assist in ensuring this impact to Aboriginal cultural heritage values remains low. Particularly if the development is complemented by appropriate and meaningful engagement and consultation with the Aboriginal community ongoing through the project, including development of meaningful Aboriginal cultural heritage interpretation initiatives within the future University City campus.

The ACHAR recommends the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) for the wider HCCD development, in order to further address and mitigate any potential impact to Aboriginal cultural heritage values, and to provide a working framework and strategic advice for the appropriate and sensitive management of Aboriginal cultural heritage and archaeology going forward for the life of the project.

9.2 Recommendations

As the Stage 1A development is located entirely on reclaimed land with no potential for intact historical archaeological potential or intact Aboriginal archaeological deposit, nor is it located in proximity to any known registered heritage items, it is recommended that development of Stage 1A can proceed following SSDA approval without the need to seek any additional heritage approvals or archaeological investigation.

In summary, the following recommendations are made with regards to heritage for the Stage 1A development of the University of Newcastle Honeysuckle City Campus Development:

- The Stage 1A development works will have no potential to impact any natural soil profiles capable of retaining an Aboriginal archaeological deposit, due to location of the Stage 1A footprint wholly within fill/reclaimed land, and therefore management and mitigation strategies relevant to this stage of the development will focus on social and cultural outcomes and initiatives, rather than archaeological investigation or intervention within the HCCD Stage 1A location (as presented in the relevant ACHAR).
- Stage 1A of the HCCD project will be assessed and approved as a State Significant Development by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, and therefore will not require an AHIP in accordance with Section 90 of the NSW NPW Act.
- It is recommended that an ACHMP should be prepared for the wider HCCD project, in order to provide a working framework and strategic advice for the appropriate and sensitive management of Aboriginal cultural heritage and archaeology going forward for the life of the project. Project RAPs, particularly identified cultural knowledge holders, should be involved in all stages of development of this ACHMP, ideally to be facilitated within a workshop environment.
- While this assessment has identified that there is little to low potential for the development works to impact on any historical archaeological resource, and unexpected finds policy should be

implemented during development works, to provide a procedure to follow should any unexpected archaeological resource be encountered during works.

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