



**19-23 Rosalind Street, Cammeray**  
Historical Archaeological Assessment

January 2026

## Document Information

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# 1. Introduction

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. The Purpose of this Report

This Historical Archaeological Assessment has been prepared by Curio Projects (Curio) on behalf of Perifa Rosalind Development Pty Ltd (Perifa) to assess the potential environmental impacts that could arise from the construction of a seniors housing development (the development) at 19-23 Rosalind Street, Cammeray (the study area). This report supports the assessment of the proposed development under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Industry specific SEARs were issued on 17 October 2025 for the development. Development for the purposes of seniors housing with an Estimated Development Cost (EDC) of more than \$30 million and includes a residential care facility is state significant development under Schedule 1, Section 28 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021* (Planning Systems SEPP). The proposed development has an EDC exceeding \$30 million and includes a residential care facility component. Accordingly, it is considered State Significant Development.

The purpose of this report is to identify whether or not the study area has the potential to contain historical 'relics' as defined under the NSW Heritage Act and whether or not the proposed development of the site would be likely to disturb or expose those relics (if present), and to assess the archaeological research significance of those relics that may be impacted. This HAA assessment will determine whether the proposed works would require future archaeological test excavations prior to work on the development proceeding.

### 1.2. Site Identification

The site is located at 19–23 Rosalind Street, Cammeray within the North Sydney Local Government Area (LGA). It comprises three (3) allotments legally described as SP4657, SP5218 and SP16181, and occupies a total area of approximately 4,100m<sup>2</sup>. A site aerial showing each allotment is provided in Figure 1.1. Each respective lot currently comprises a three (3) storey residential flat building with the two (2) of the rear buildings situated on battleaxe allotments connected to Rosalind Street. The apartment complexes contain internal courtyards, asphalt and concrete driveways and an open parking area along the eastern side of the study area



Figure 1.1: Location of study area  
Source: Ethos Urban 2025

### 1.3. Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

In accordance with section 4.39 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act), Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for SSD-96505456 were issued on 17 October 2025. This report has been prepared to respond to the relevant issued SEARs, as set out in the table below.

SEAR	Response
<p><b>21. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage</b></p> <p>Where there is known, or reasonably likely, to be Aboriginal cultural heritage on or near the site demonstrate that impacts have been adequately investigated and assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying that an appropriate prior planning process has already considered these impacts, e.g. a rezoning or development application, or</li> <li>Providing an initial assessment of the potential impacts.</li> </ul> <p>If potential impacts are significant, provide an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies, describes and assesses any impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage sites or values associated with the site</li> <li>Is prepared in accordance with relevant guidelines.</li> </ul>	<p><b>If required:</b> Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report</p> <p>Curio has prepared an Aboriginal Due Diligence Assessment to address this SEAR</p>
<p><b>22. Environmental Heritage</b></p> <p>Where there is potential for direct or indirect impacts on environmental heritage, provide a Statement of Heritage Impact and Archaeological Assessment (where required), in accordance with the relevant guidelines.</p>	<p><b>If required:</b> Statement of Heritage Impact and Archaeological Assessment</p> <p><b>This document addresses this SEAR in regard to an Archaeological Assessment.</b> A separate Statement of Heritage Impact (SoHI) has been prepared by Curio that further addresses this SEAR.</p>

### 1.4. Limitations and Constraints

This report has been prepared using the available historical data and documentation available for the study area and surrounds including relevant archaeological reports and assessments. This report does not include assessment of Aboriginal heritage values or archaeology, nor any non-heritage related planning controls or requirements.

### 1.5. Authorship

The Historical Archaeological Assessment has been prepared by Rebecca Agius, Senior Archaeologist and Heritage Specialist with review by Natalie Vinton, CEO, both of Curio Projects.

## 2. Statutory Context

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### 2.1. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (NSW) 1979

The NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) administers the EP&A Act, which provides the legislative context for environmental planning instruments made to legislate and guide the processes 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), Regional Environmental Plans (REPs), and State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs). The EP&A Act also requires that potential historical archaeological resources are adequately assessed and considered as part of the development process, in accordance with the requirements of the Heritage Act (see relevant sections below for further on the Heritage Act).

#### 2.1.1. North Sydney Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2013

Places and objects that are not State significant may be significant to the community within a local government area. These are listed on the North Sydney Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2013.

Clause 5.10 of the LEP sets out objectives and planning controls for the conservation of heritage, including the conservation of archaeological sites. The LEP states that development consent is required for works that will involve:

*5.10(2)(c) disturbing or excavating an archaeological site while knowing, or having reasonable cause to suspect, that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed.*

Clause 5.10(7) specifically relates to the management of archaeological sites:

*(7) Archaeological Site*

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

- 1. Notify the Heritage Council of its intention to grant consent, and*
- 2. Take into consideration any response received from the Heritage Council within 28 days after the notice is sent.*

#### 2.1.2. North Sydney Development Control Plan (DCP) 2025

The North Sydney Development Control Plan (DCP) 2025 was made in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (the EP&A Act) to supplement the North Sydney LEP 2013. Part C Section 3 outlines planning controls in association with archaeological sites.

Objectives	Provisions
<i>O1: Acknowledge the importance of archaeology as part of North Sydney's heritage resources.</i>	<i>P1: Minimise the depth and extent of any excavation and locate new work away from areas known to contain archaeological relics.</i>
<i>O2: Minimise potential for interference with archaeological heritage as a result of development by encouraging relics to be preserved in-situ.</i>	<i>P2: Minimise disturbance along foreshore areas where there is a high likelihood of relics. This includes excavation</i>

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*and exposure of subsoil areas for swimming pools, jetties or boat sheds.*

*P3: Locate structures to minimise changes to the natural landform.*

*P4: Minimise disturbance to below ground and sub-floor areas by careful siting of new work to conserve potential archaeology.*

*P5: Ensure reversibility of changes (as relevant).*

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## 2.2. NSW Heritage Act 1977

In NSW, heritage items are afforded statutory protection under the Heritage Act. Heritage places and items of particular importance to the people of NSW are listed on the NSW State Heritage Register (SHR). The Heritage Act defines a heritage item as a *'place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct'*. It 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'.

Excavation permits are issued by the Heritage Council of NSW, or its Delegate, under Section (s) 140 of the Heritage Act for relics not listed on the SHR or under Section 60 for relics listed on the SHR. An application for an excavation permit must be supported by an Archaeological Research Design and Archaeological Assessment prepared in accordance with the Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet (NSW Heritage, DPC) archaeological guidelines. Minor works that will have a minimal impact on archaeological relics may be granted an exception under s139 (4) for items/landscapes not listed on the SHR or an exemption under s57 (2) of the Heritage Act for items/landscapes on the SHR.

The study area contains no SHR listed items.

### 2.2.1. Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register

Under Section 170 (s170) of the Heritage Act, government instrumentalities must keep a s170 Register which contains items under the control or ownership of the agency and which are or could be listed as heritage items (of State or local significance).

The study area contains no s170 listed heritage items.

## 2.3. Non-Statutory Heritage Registers

### 2.3.1. Register of the National Estate

The Register of the National Estate (RNE) is a list of natural, Aboriginal and historic heritage places throughout Australia. It was originally established under the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975. Under that Act, the Australian Heritage Commission entered more than 13,000 places in the register. Following amendments to the Australian Heritage Council Act 2003, the RNE was frozen on 19 February 2007 and ceased to be a statutory register in February 2012. The RNE is now maintained on a non-statutory basis as a publicly available archive and educational resource.

There are no items listed on the RNE within the study area. The Holtermann Estate B Conservation Area (boundary in proximity to the study area) is listed as an indicative place before the RNE closed and is noted to have been recorded for reference only, with no statutory basis.

## 2.4. Heritage Items and HCAs in the Vicinity of the Study Area

Table 2.1 provides a summary of all statutory heritage listings both included within, as well as in the vicinity of, the study area, illustrated in Figure 2.1.

Table 2.1: Summary of heritage listings within and in the vicinity of the subject site.

Heritage Item	Address	SHR No.	LEP No.	Significance
House	169 West Street, Crows Nest		I0177	Local
House	179 West Street, Crows Nest		I0178	Local
Shop	205 West Street, Crows Nest		I0179	Local
St Thomas Rest Park (including Sexton's Cottage & Cemetery Fence)	250 West Street, Crows Nest		I0180	Local
<b>Heritage Conservation Areas</b>				
Holtermann Estate B			CA08	Local



Figure 2.1: Heritage listed items in the vicinity of the study area (blue)  
Source: North Sydney LEP Heritage Map

# 3. Historical Summary

### 3. Historical Development of the Study Area

This chapter provides a brief timeline summary of the historical phases of use and development activity at the subject site to provide historical context.

#### 3.1. Aboriginal Ethnohistory

##### 3.1.1. Pre-European Environment

Much of the evidence of traditional Aboriginal lifestyle and economy was disrupted in the early years of European colonisation and understandings of Aboriginal groups and their lifeways prior to European settlement is in part reliant on historical records and documents written by early European settlers.

Prior to European settlement, the study area formed part of the hunting and gathering grounds of the Eora people. The Sydney region comprised two main language groups: Darug, with coastal and hinterland dialects, and Tharawal to the south of Botany Bay.<sup>1</sup> The Gadigal clan occupied lands along the southern side of Sydney Harbour from South Head west to Darling Harbour (Cockle Bay) and south towards Botany Bay.

Aboriginal clans were linked to specific territories and water sources, moving seasonally to exploit available resources.<sup>2</sup> Local communities practiced a mixed subsistence economy, drawing on abundant coastal and terrestrial resources. Sydney's harbour provided fish, shellfish, and crustacea, while sandstone overhangs and rock shelters offered suitable habitation sites. Further inland, groups relied on hunting possums and kangaroos, gathering plant foods, and accessing freshwater species such as eels and mullet.<sup>3</sup>



Figure 3.1: Cockle Bay, now Darling Harbour (1819-1820).  
Source: Trove, available at <https://trove.nla.gov.au/work/12335999>

<sup>1</sup> Attenbrow 2010.

<sup>2</sup> Attenbrow 2010, p. 62

<sup>3</sup> Murray, R. and White, K., 1988, Dharug and Dungaree: The History of Penrith and St Marys to 1860. Hargreen Publishing Company in conjunction with the Council of the City of Penrith

### 3.1.2. Post Contact History

At the time of the arrival of the First Fleet in January 1788, it is estimated that at least 1,500 Aboriginal people may have lived along the coastal region between Broken Bay and Botany Bay. The arrival of the First Fleet devastated the lives and activities of Aboriginal people in the Sydney area, restricting access to areas traditionally used for hunting and gathering, shelter, and ceremonial purposes, while also introducing devastating diseases such as smallpox. It is estimated that almost half of Sydney's Aboriginal population died in the first smallpox epidemic recorded in the colony in 1789<sup>4</sup>.

Initial interactions between early colonists and Aboriginal groups were peaceful and British settlers engaged in gift-giving aiming to encourage integration into the colony while also deterring any potential opposition to the establishment of the European settlement<sup>5</sup>. As the colony expanded, many of the original walking tracks used by local Aboriginal groups were adopted by the colonists and used as transport corridors. The expansion of the colony and limited meaningful dialogue between the British colonists and the local Aboriginal communities resulted in increased conflict between settlers and the local Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal people who survived epidemics and displacement continued to live a semi-traditional life often on the margins of European settlement occasionally supplementing their resources with supplies from new settlers<sup>6</sup>. The Aboriginal population continued to decline and, by 1827, it was estimated that the population had declined to roughly a third of the original population that had existed at the time of the colony's establishment in 1788. Despite their displacement, Aboriginal communities continued to utilise the land around the increasing spread of European colonisation.

### 3.2. Historical Development

Following European colonisation, the North Sydney area remained largely undeveloped until the mid-nineteenth century. In 1845, prominent merchant Alexander Berry donated 4 acres of his estate to the Anglican Parish of St Leonards to establish St Thomas' Cemetery, the first European burial ground established on the North Shore.<sup>7</sup> The first recorded burials commenced in 1847 and the last in 1950.

The cemetery, situated approximately 85m north-west of the study area, became a key landmark and today survives as St Thomas Rest Park, one of the most historically significant green spaces in the district. The transformation of the cemetery into a public park between 1967 and 1974 reflects the suburb's transition from a semi-rural landscape to a densely developed residential area.<sup>8</sup>

In the conversion from cemetery to park, broken monuments and headstones were cleared away and others were moved to the designated historic section. Monuments and headstones already in suitable positions were retained in these locations. Most grave surrounds were removed and used to form low walls throughout the park. The conversion of the cemetery was North Sydney Council's first heritage project, and it aimed to conserve a historic site while providing public access to its history and heritage.

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<sup>4</sup> Hinkson, M. & Harris, A., 2010, *Aboriginal Sydney: a guide to important places of the past and present*, 2nd ed, Aboriginal Studies Press Canberra.

<sup>5</sup> Karskens, G., 2016, Phillip and the Eora. *Governing race relations in the colony of New South Wales*. *Sydney Journal*, Vol 5, No 1. 39-55. pp. 43-44

<sup>6</sup> Murray and White 1988

<sup>7</sup> North Sydney Council, 2016, *St Thomas Rest Park Plan of Management* <https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/directory-record/1507/st-thomas-rest-park>

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

Municipal mapping places the site within Belmore Ward, near the boundary with Tunks Ward, reflecting its position at the edge of early ward administration in North Sydney. An 1886 Metcalf Estate sales poster (Figure 3.2) already shows Rosalind Street formed at the study area with at least one building indicated on or immediately adjacent to the subject land, which demonstrates evidence of late-19th-century subdivision pressure and early small-scale development. The 1899 Willoughby Parish map (Figure 3.3) identifies the study area within Lot 28, confirming formal cadastral structuring by the end of the century.

The earliest listings in the Sands Directory<sup>9</sup> from the 1880s to early 1890s indicate that the area surrounding Rosalind Street was semi-rural and sparsely developed. Occupations such as *gardener* and *market gardener*, consistently associated with George Percival, suggest that the landscape was being used for small-scale horticultural or produce-growing activities, likely taking advantage of the fertile soils and access to local water sources. This suggests that the area was a part of the peri-urban fringe of St Leonards and early North Sydney, supplying fresh produce to nearby urban markets.

By the late 1880s, the appearance of named cottages, such as *Albion Cottage* and later *St Thomas Cottage*, implies a gradual transition to more permanent residential occupation. These early dwellings were typical of late Victorian suburban expansion, as market gardens and smallholdings were subdivided and built upon. The reference to *Albion Cottage* at 19 Rosalind Street from 1889 onwards strongly suggests the establishment of a modest dwelling on or very near the current study area by this time.

Through the 1890s and early 1900s, the property appears to have maintained a residential character, with occupants such as travellers, plumbers, and other working-class tradespeople. The repeated reference to “*Albion Cottage*” at No. 19 through to 1905–1906 reflects stable residential use. The introduction of *Cavanhurst* and later *Hawthornden* at No. 25 indicates the construction of neighbouring houses, likely modest detached cottages forming part of the early suburban streetscape.

From the 1910s through the 1930s, occupants listed in the directories, including painters, woodworkers, and small business owners, reflect the consolidation of the area as a working- and lower middle-class residential neighbourhood. Families such as the Woods and Woodberrys appear to have occupied the same properties for decades, suggesting a stable, established local community.

By the mid-twentieth century, the original detached houses were replaced or redeveloped into multi-unit dwellings, consistent with the broader post-war densification that reshaped North Sydney. Sometime between 1955 and 1965, these earlier buildings were supplanted by the existing three-storey brick residential flats, which was typical of post-war suburban growth. The surrounding streetscape reflects this period’s architectural and social transition, characterised by modest flat buildings set amid mature trees, creating the cohesive mid-twentieth-century residential character that remains evident today.

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<sup>9</sup> City of Sydney Archives, Sands Directory 1858-1933



Figure 3.2: 1886 showing the development of Rosalind St and presence of a building within the study area (approx. location)  
Source: North Sydney Heritage Centre, Stanton Library's Digital Collection





Figure 3.5: 1943 aerial photograph  
Source: Historical Imagery Viewer NSW



Figure 3.6: 1955 aerial photograph  
Source: Historical Imagery Viewer NSW



Figure 3.7: 1965 aerial photograph  
Source: Historical Imagery Viewer NSW



Figure 3.8: 1984 aerial photograph  
Source: Historical Imagery Viewer NSW

### **3.3. Summary of Historical Context**

As a result of the above historical summary, the following key post-1788 historical phases for the study area have been identified:

- Phase 1: Pre-Contact Aboriginal Occupation (pre-1788)
- Phase 2: Post-Contact European Arrival (1788-1830s)
- Phase 3: Semi-Rural Use and Expansion (1840s-1880s)
- Phase 4: Residential Development (1880s-1930s)
- Phase 5: Post-War Redevelopment (Current Land Use) (1950s-present)

## 4. Physical Analysis

## 4. Physical Analysis

This chapter provides a detailed summary and physical analysis of the existing structures and features within the study area, as well as context and overview of the immediate surroundings, including places of importance essential to the understanding of the physical context of the site. A site visit was conducted by Rebecca Agius on 5 November 2025.

The study area comprises three adjoining residential allotments located at 19–23 Rosalind Street, Cammeray. Each lot is occupied by a three-storey residential flat building, with the two rear buildings situated on battleaxe allotments extending south from Rosalind Street. The existing buildings are typical of post-war residential development, constructed between approximately 1955 and 1965, and appear to have undergone minimal alteration since that time.

The buildings feature rendered masonry facades with minimal detail, flat roofs, and concrete driveways that provide access to some undercroft parking. The surrounding area is characterised by mature street trees, including figs and jacarandas, which provide substantial canopy cover and contribute to the established suburban streetscape. Rosalind Street itself is a quiet, tree-lined street with low to medium-density residential development predominantly dating from the mid-twentieth century.

To the north-west, approximately 80–90 m from the study area, lies St Thomas Rest Park, a historical cemetery originally established in the early nineteenth century. The cemetery is enclosed by fencing along West Street, with numerous upright sandstone headstones visible near the boundary.

At the corner of West and Rosalind Streets, roughly 50 metres from the study area, stands a locally listed heritage building ('Shop' LEP#10179) a two-storey red-brick structure that contributes to the visual character of the streetscape. Its prominent corner position, contrasting materiality, and period detailing make it a notable landmark. From the study area, particularly from the frontage of 19 Rosalind Street, partial viewlines to the heritage building are available through breaks in vegetation and along the road alignment.

The study area is generally level with slight gradients towards the street, consistent with surrounding residential blocks. The existing buildings occupy much of the allotment footprints, with small, landscaped areas and sealed surfaces such as driveways and car parks surrounding them. The subsurface condition is likely to have been substantially modified by cut-and-fill activities associated with mid-twentieth-century building works, including foundations, service trenches, and the formation of driveways and parking areas.

No visible surface evidence of earlier occupation, structures, or archaeological features was observed during the site visit. The asphalted and concreted areas, as seen in the photographs, indicate that the upper soil profile has been disturbed. However, small pockets of relatively undisturbed ground may persist in landscaped zones, particularly along property boundaries or beneath mature trees.



Figure 4.1: View of the study area, behind mature trees from opposite site of Rosalind St, looking south

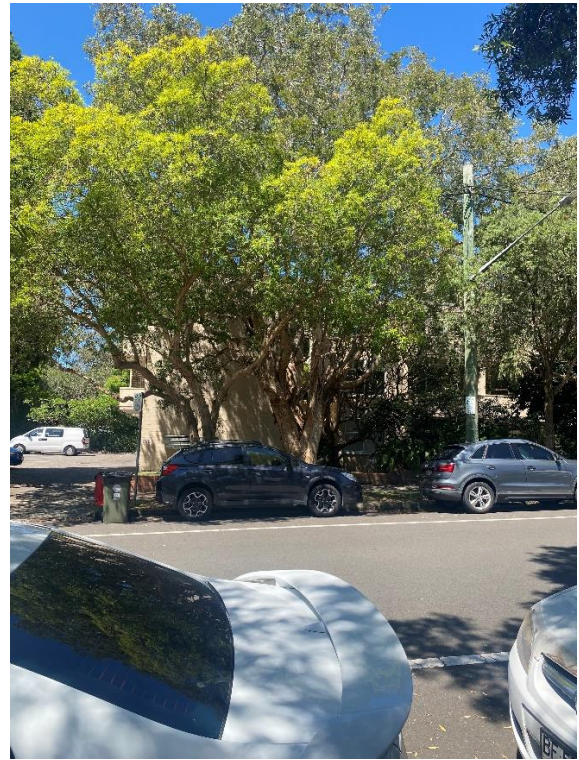


Figure 4.2: View of the study area, behind mature trees from opposite site of Rosalind St, looking south



Figure 4.3: Streetscape of the study area (yellow arrow) and viewline to heritage item # I0179 (red arrow), looking west up Rosalind St



Figure 4.4: Driveway entry into the study area from opposite side of Rosalind St, looking south



Figure 4.5: 19 Rosalind St, looking south-west



Figure 4.6: 21 Rosalind St, looking south-west



Figure 4.7: View of Rosalind St from driveway, 19 Rosalind St building to the left, looking north



Figure 4.8: 23 Rosalind St, looking south-west



Figure 4.9: Length of driveway down to Rosalind St from building 21, looking north



Figure 4.10: Streetscape and viewline to heritage item # 10179 (red arrow) and St Thomas Rest Park (yellow arrow) from study area



Figure 4.11: View down Rosalind St from St Thomas Rest Park, looking towards heritage item #10179 (red arrow) and study area (yellow arrow)



Figure 4.12: St Thomas Rest Park from intersection of West and Rosalind St



Figure 4.13: View into St Thomas Rest Park demonstrating proximity of tombstones to West St



Figure 4.14: View into St Thomas Rest Park demonstrating proximity of tombstones to West St



Figure 4.15: Tombstones inside of St Thomas Rest Park



Figure 4.16: Elizabeth Berry tombstone monument



Figure 4.17: View of intersection between West and Rosalind Streets from inside St Thomas Rest Park – study area approx. location indicated by red arrow



Figure 4.18: Historic graves along the fence at the intersection of West and Rosalind Streets



Figure 4.19: Historic graves along the fence at the intersection of West and Rosalind Streets



Figure 4.20: Historic grave up against fence of neighbouring property within St Thomas Rest Park

## 5. Proposed Works

## 5. Proposed Works

### 5.1. Proposed Development

The proposed development includes the construction of a new seniors housing development and comprises the following works:

- Site preparation works including demolition of three (3) existing residential flat buildings and associated parking facilities as well as bulk excavation
- Construction of two (2), five (5) and six (6) storey buildings, Building A and B respectively, comprising the following:
  - Building A:
    - 7 x 2-bedroom ILUs;
    - 11 x 3-bedroom ILUs; and
    - Internal communal space for use by residents.
  - Building B:
    - 11 x 2-bedroom ILUs;
    - 20 x 3-bedroom ILUs;
    - Two (2) residential care facility beds and residential care hub; and
    - Internal communal facilities for use by all residents comprising a cinema, private dining room, gymnasium and pool.
- Communal open space and associated landscaping
- Construction of two (2) basement levels to facilitate car parking accessible via Rosalind Street
- Ground Level neighbourhood shop located in Building A
- Extension and augmentation of utility infrastructure as required

For a detailed project description refer to the Environmental Impact Statement prepared by Colliers Urban Planning.

### 5.2. Bulk Excavation

The proposed works will require full-site bulk excavation to construct two basement levels beneath the new buildings. Existing ground levels across the lot range from approximately RL 83.1 to RL 86.7, while the proposed basement floor levels step down to RL 80.600 (Basement 1) and RL 77.400 (Basement 2). As a result, the excavation will extend between roughly 5.5 m and 9 m below current ground level, with the deepest cuts occurring toward the higher rear portions of the site. The excavation footprint spans almost the entire allotment, removing existing hardstand, landscaping, fill, and natural soils across both building pads and the central courtyard/parking areas. Lateral support will be provided by new retaining structures along the side and rear boundaries.

Above the basement footprint, a lower-ground communal level (also at RL +80.9m) will include subgrade slabs and external courtyards, requiring additional excavation for structural beams and stormwater management. Outside the main basement box, disturbance will also occur from the installation of underground services, including electrical, water, sewer, fire and stormwater connections extending to Rosalind Street, as well as new driveways, access ramps and tree planting zones.

### **5.3. Services and Plant**

Ground floor shows substation, fire booster and service reticulation points; lower-ground shows water meter/pump room, pool plant/mech air, multiple exhaust/risers (dry fire, garbage, diesel, car exhaust, etc.). Trenching to street connections will disturb soils along the Rosalind Street verge and internal corridors to plant rooms.

### **5.4. External Works and Landscaping**

New hardscape (communal terraces, bocce/boules court, paths) and softscape will require subgrade preparation, minor cut/fill, and service conduits for lighting/irrigation. Tree pits will require localised excavations beyond finished landscape depths.

### **5.5. Driveways and Ramps**

New basement access and any on-grade ramps/levels will involve reshaping and compaction of subgrade, replacing existing driveway formations.

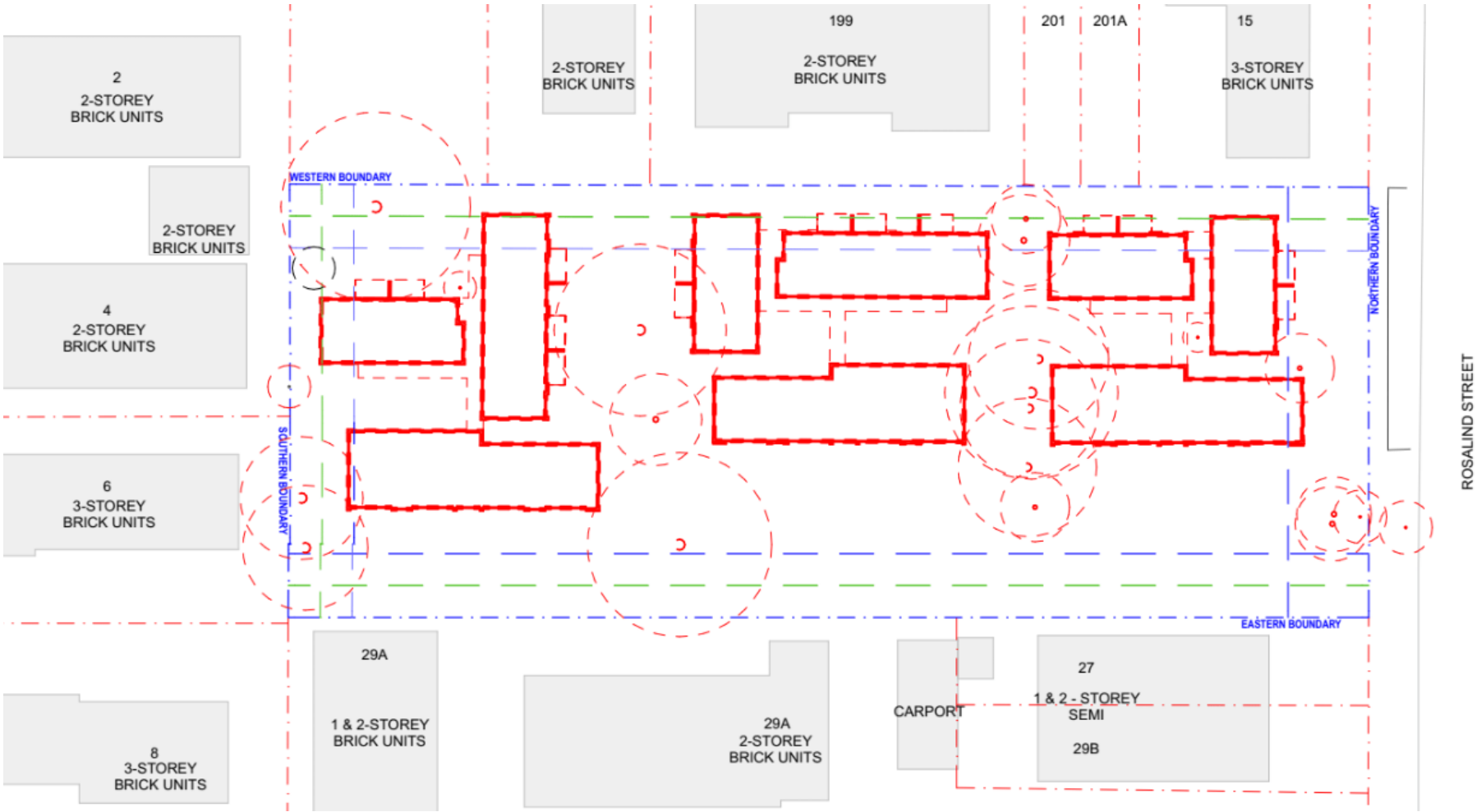


Figure 5.1: Demolition Plan  
Source: CHROFI 2026

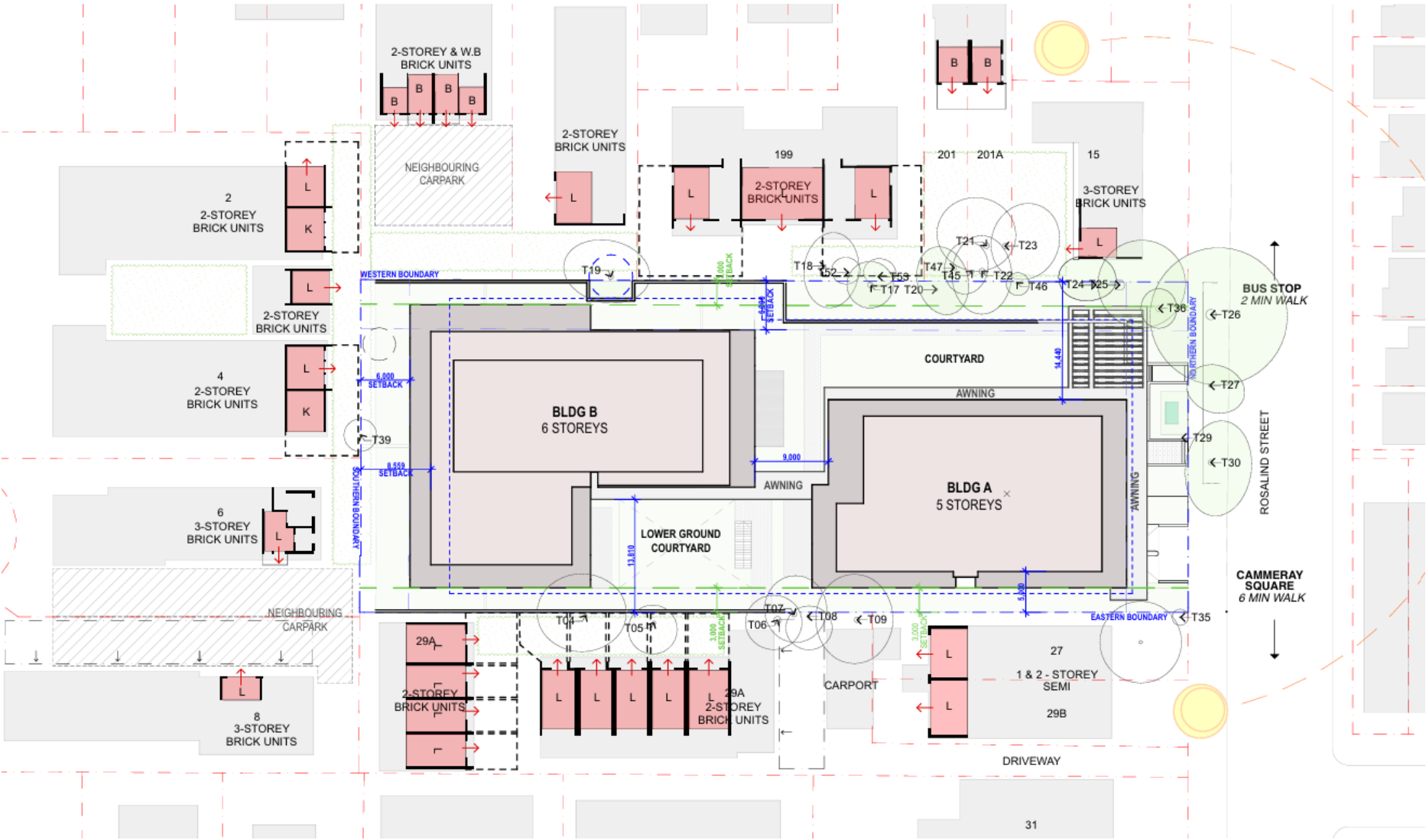


Figure 5.2: Site analysis of proposed works  
Source: CHROFI 2026





Figure 5.4: Lower ground proposed plan  
Source: CHROFI 2026

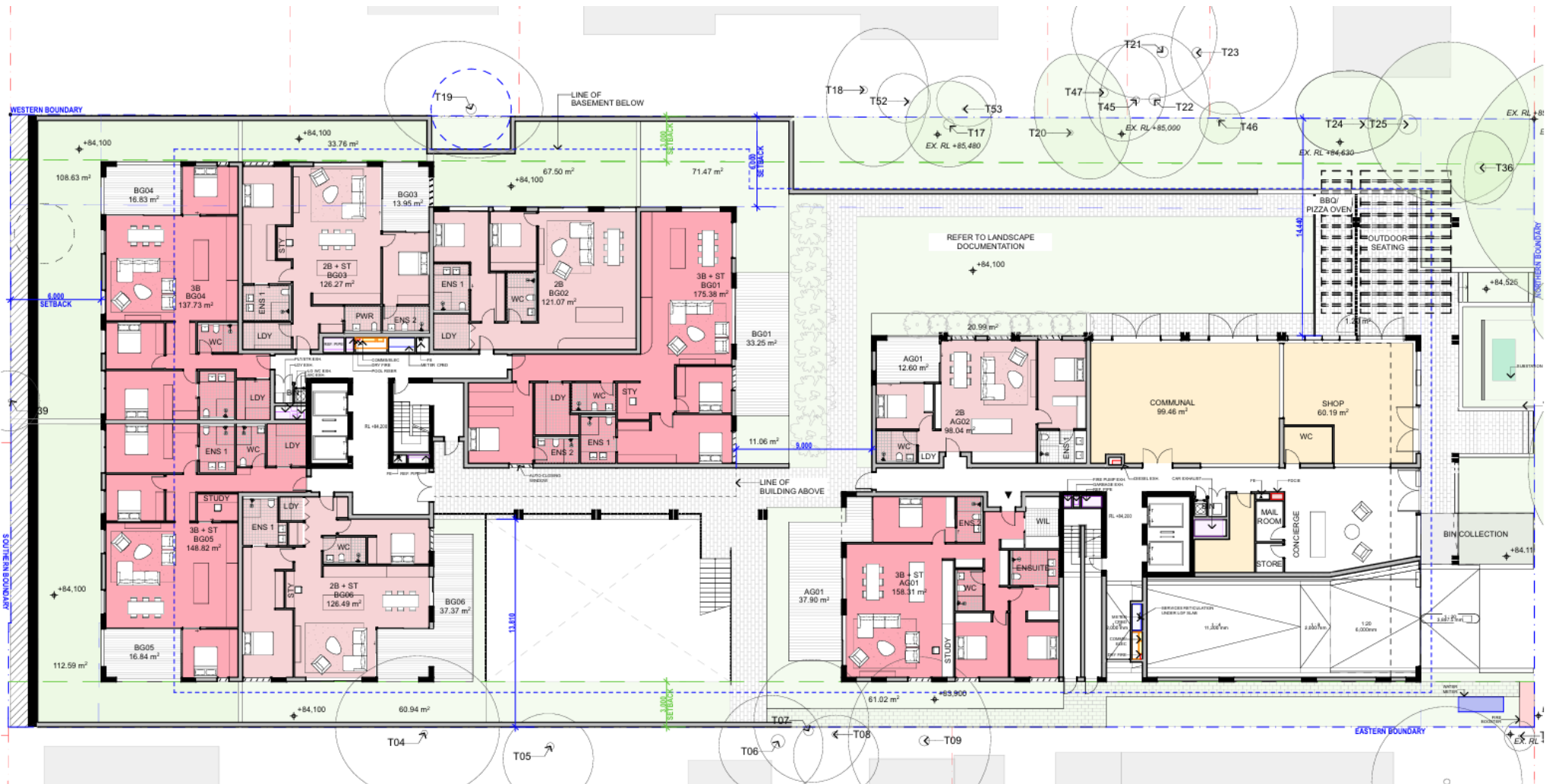


Figure 5.5: Ground floor proposed plan  
Source: CHORFI 2026

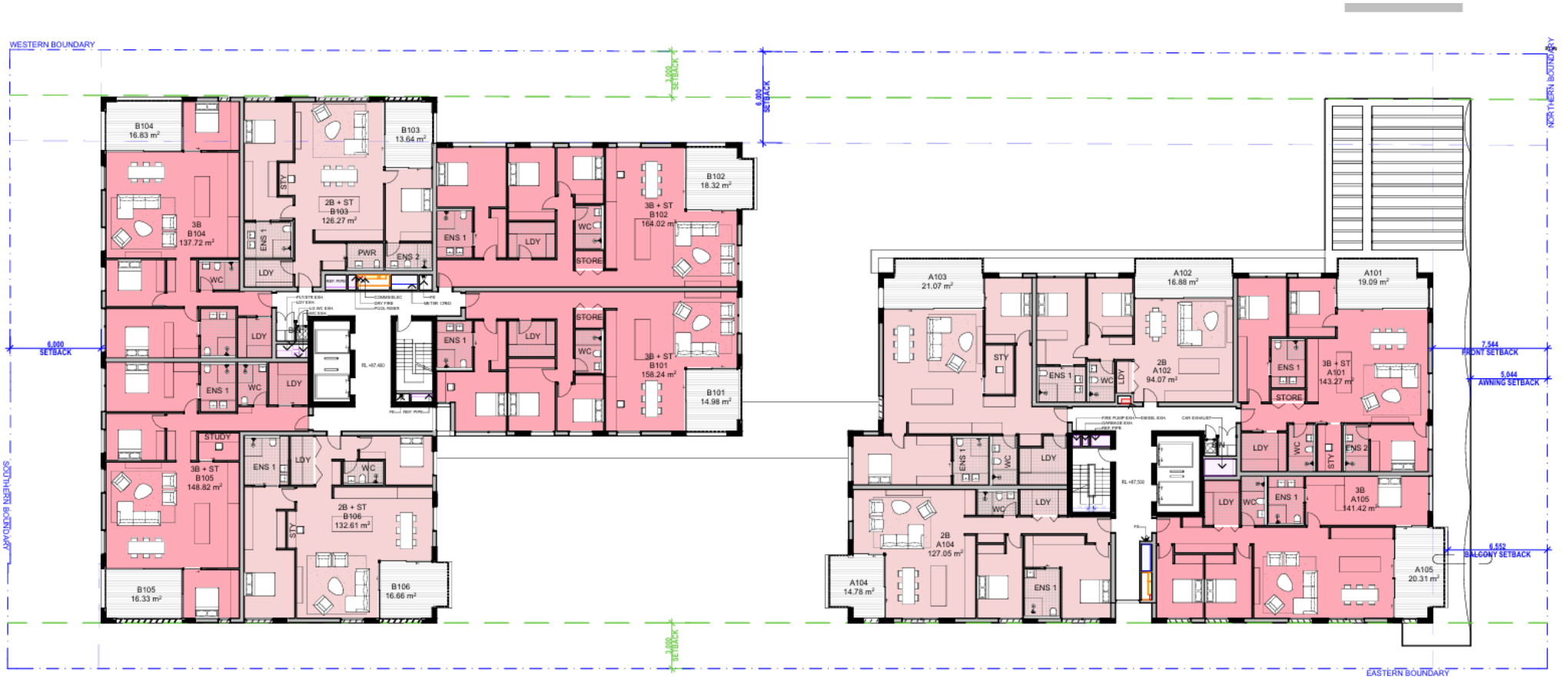


Figure 5.6: Level 1 proposed plan  
Source: CHROFI 2026

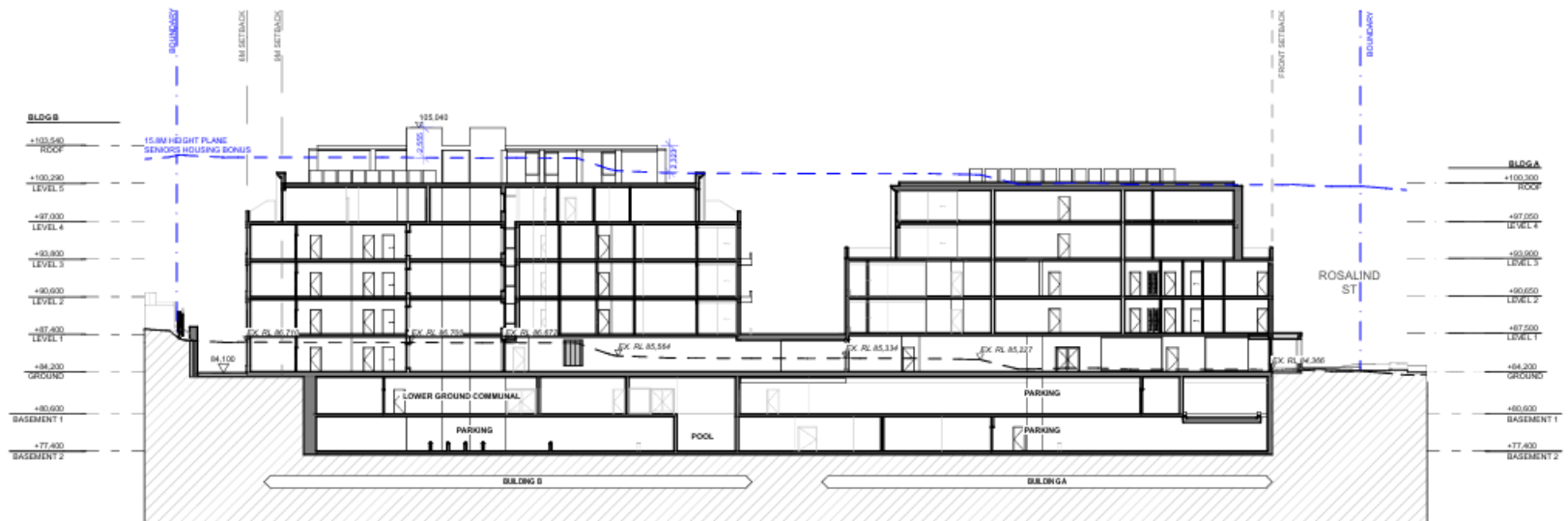
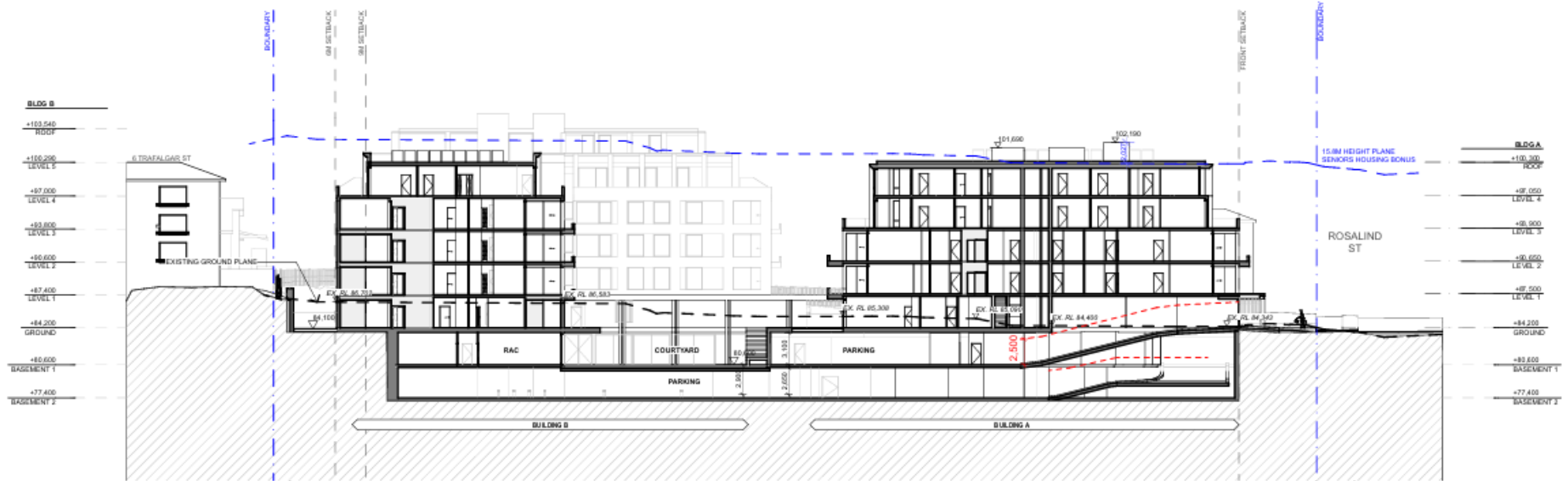


Figure 5.7: Sections  
Source: CHROFI 2026

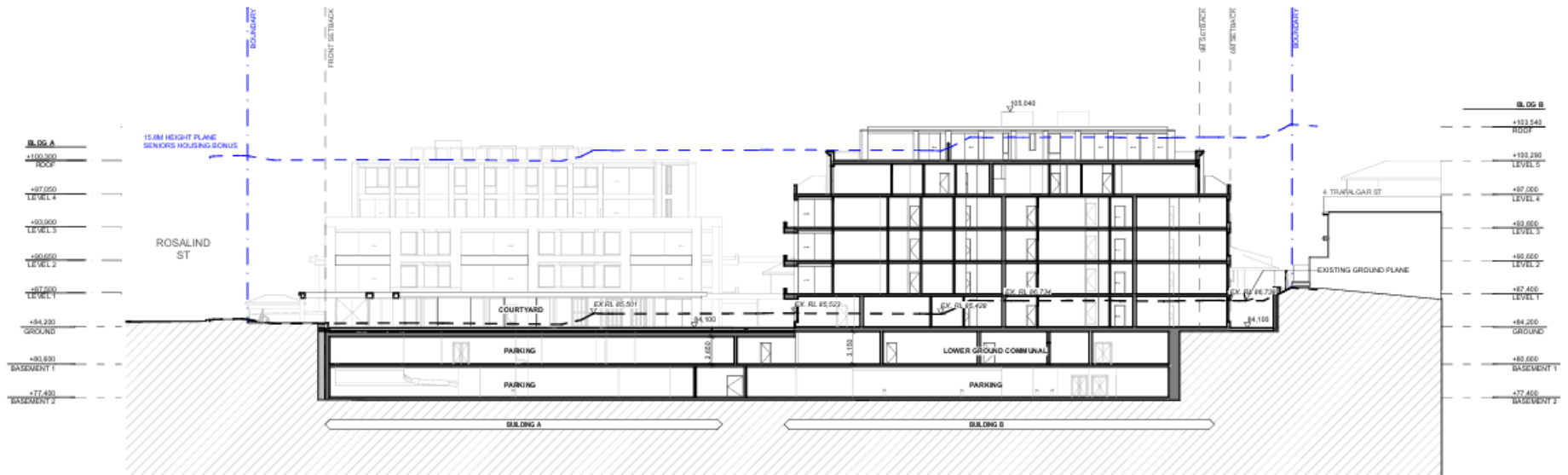


Figure 5.8: Sections  
Source: CHROFI 2026

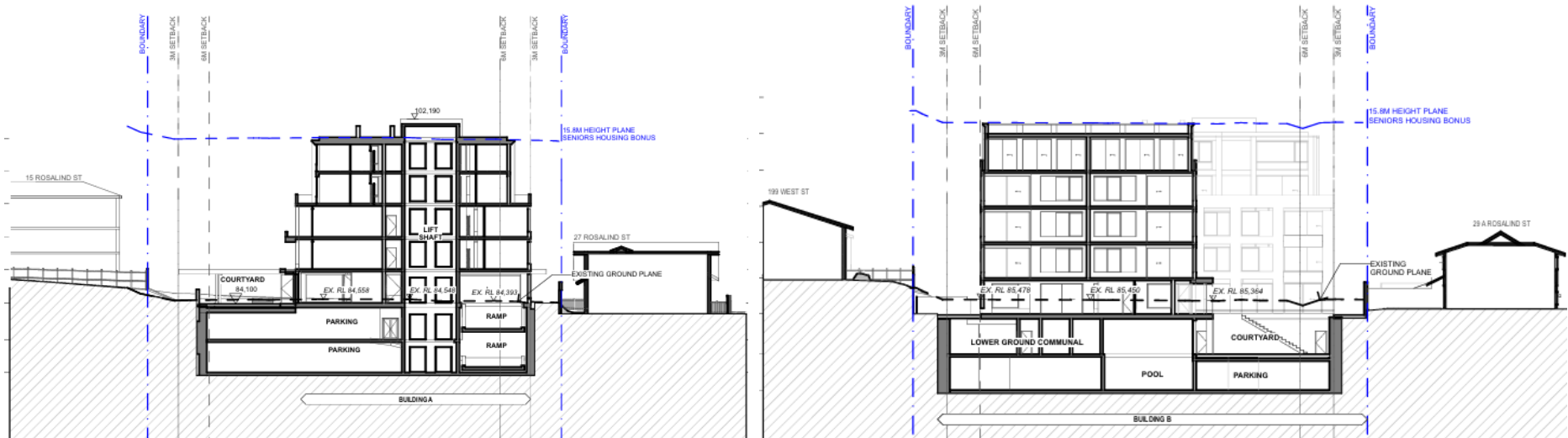


Figure 5.9: Sections  
Source: CHROFI 2026

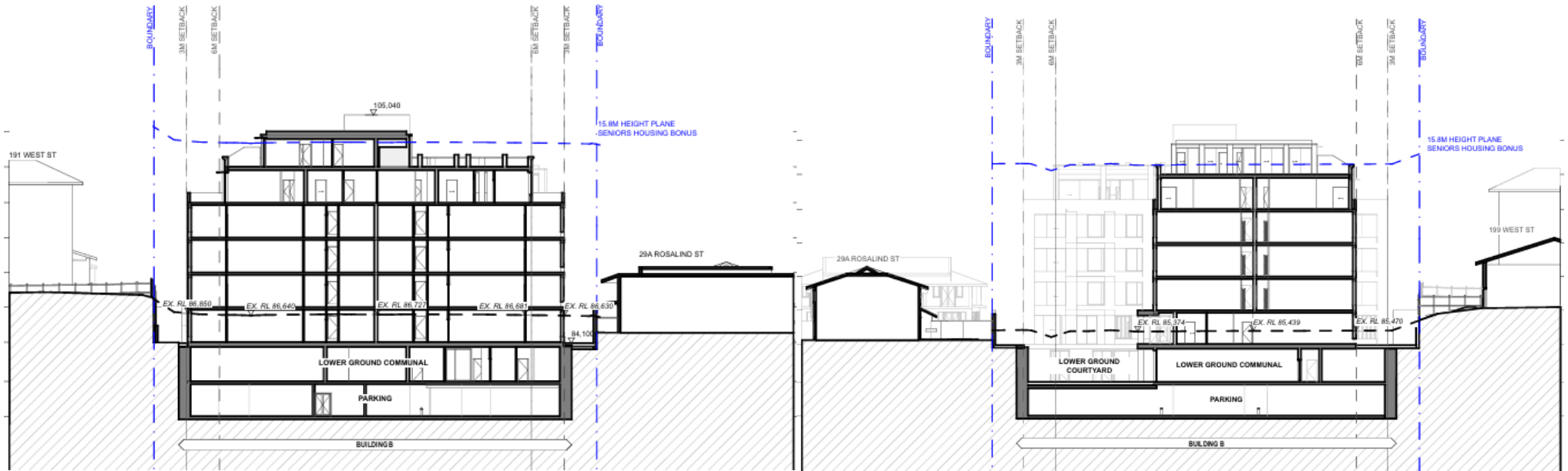


Figure 5.10: Sections  
Source: CHROFI 2026

## 6. Historical Archaeological Assessment

## 6. Historical Archaeological Assessment

### 6.1. Introduction

The extent to which physical remains of past occupation may survive across any site is dependent on two main factors: firstly, the nature of the archaeological resource; and secondly, the nature and extent of subsequent development and modifications at a site that may have impacted the deposition or conservation of the archaeological resource. While each subsequent phase of development and occupation may contribute new deposits and features to the archaeological record, it may also remove or disturb deposits and features associated with previous phases of occupation.

### 6.2. Methodology

#### 6.2.1. Archaeological Potential

The potential for archaeological resources to survive in a landscape is significantly affected by the historical use of a site past ground disturbing activities. The following assessment of archaeological potential is based on the definitions presented in Table 6.1 and Table 6.2.

Table 6.1: Definitions of Archaeological Potential

Archaeological Potential	Definition
High	A site where there is known occupation associated with the historical phase and proceeding ground disturbance has been minimal
Moderate	A site where there is some potential for archaeological relics associated with the historical phase to survive, though they may have been subject to some disturbance
Low	A site that has either been subject to little or no known historical development, or where levels of disturbance are so high that they may have removed all evidence of former structures. Unexpected or highly truncated/disturbed archaeological resources may survive, though this is unlikely
Nil	A site where there has been no known historical development or where impacts are significant, such as the construction of deep basements

Table 6.2: Definitions of Levels of Historical Disturbance

Level of Disturbance	Definition
Low	The site or feature has not been subject to activities that would have a major impact on the survival of archaeological remains. Archaeological evidence may be largely intact.
Moderate	The site or feature has been subject to some activities that may have impacted on the survival of archaeological remains. Archaeological evidence may survive, however it may be disturbed.
High	The site or feature has been subject to activities that are likely to have impacted on the survival of archaeological remains. Little archaeological evidence may survive, or it may be substantially destroyed.

### 6.2.2. Archaeological Significance

Determining the significance of a potential archaeological resource is carried out by utilising a system of assessment under seven criteria outlined in the 2013 *Burra Charter of Australia*.<sup>10</sup> In 2009, the Heritage Council of NSW endorsed criteria developed specifically to assist archaeologists determine the significance of archaeological sites and relics in consideration of the thresholds of significance at a local or State level.<sup>11</sup> Definitions of archaeological significance are presented in Table 6.3.

Table 6.3: Definitions of Archaeological Significance

Criterion	Definition
<b>Archaeological Research Potential</b> NSW Heritage Criterion E	Archaeological research potential is the ability of archaeological evidence, through analysis and interpretation, to provide information about a site that could not be derived from any other source, and which contributes to the archaeological significance of that site and its 'relics'.
<b>Associations with individuals, events, or groups of historical importance</b> NSW Heritage Criteria A, B, D	Archaeological remains may have associations with individuals, groups and events which may transform mundane places or objects into significant items through their relationship with important historical occurrences.
<b>Aesthetic or technical significance</b> NSW Heritage Criterion C	Whilst the technical value of archaeology is usually considered as 'research potential' aesthetic values are not usually considered to be relevant to archaeological sites. This is often because until a site has been excavated, its actual features and attributes may remain unknown. It is also because aesthetic is often interpreted to mean attractive, as opposed to the broader sense of sensory perception or 'feeling' as expressed in the Burra Charter.
<b>Ability to demonstrate the past through archaeological remains</b> NSW Heritage Criteria A, C, F & G	Archaeological remains have an ability to demonstrate how a site was used, what processes occurred, how work was undertaken and the scale of an industrial practice or other historic occupation. They can demonstrate the principal characteristics of a place or process that may be rare or common.

### 6.3. Relevant Assessments

The following archaeological, geotechnical and heritage assessments have been carried out that are in close proximity of the study area and will be used to inform this assessment of archaeological potential:

#### **64-66 Cremorne Road (1994)<sup>12</sup>**

The excavation at 64–66 Cremorne Road, conducted by GML, uncovered intact and semi-intact house footings, yard deposits, cesspit fills, refuse dumps, and garden features associated with late-19th- and early-20th-century occupation overlooking Sydney Harbour. Despite subsequent residential redevelopment, significant archaeological evidence remained below later ground levels, allowing reconstruction of domestic life, waste disposal patterns, and household use of space.

<sup>10</sup> Australia ICOMOS, 2013, Burra Charter

<sup>11</sup> Heritage Branch Department of Planning, 2009, p11

<sup>12</sup> Godden Mackay Logan, 1994, *64-66 Cremorne Road Archaeological Excavation*. Prepared for Spurgung Pty Ltd & the Heritage Council of NSW

**North Sydney Olympic Pool, Milsons Point (1999)<sup>13</sup>**

Archaeological assessment and selective excavation undertaken during upgrades to the North Sydney Olympic Pool revealed that major 20th-century engineering works, such as pool construction, terracing and seawall modifications, had removed large areas of earlier deposits and significantly altered the natural landform. However, the work also identified surviving pockets of earlier historical material in less-disturbed margins and under former recreational or garden areas where excavation had been shallower. This investigation illustrates the predictable pattern seen in much of North Sydney; where large-scale modern works take place, earlier archaeology is often removed entirely; where development was limited to surface-level construction or shallow footings, deeper or peripheral early deposits can remain.

**North Sydney Boys High School Stages 2 & 3 (2003)<sup>14 15</sup>**

A series of archaeological assessments were prepared by AHMS in 2003 for Stages 2 and 3 redevelopment works associated with North Sydney Boys High School.

The Stage 2 assessment examined proposed development areas along Falcon and Miller Streets, and across the former Keele Street alignment. Early land grants in this locality were issued in the 1850s and initially developed with private residences such as *Myalla*, *Wortley Villa*, and *Aberdeen Cottage* by the 1880s–1890s. These dwellings were later demolished following the resumption of land for the North Sydney Tramway Depot (constructed 1897–1910), which occupied much of the block until its closure in 1958. By the mid-20th century, the tram sheds and workshops were demolished, the land was levelled and incorporated into the North Sydney Boys High School campus. Subsequent ground disturbance for buildings, retaining walls, and service trenches would have removed or severely impacted any earlier archaeological deposits.

The Stage 3 assessment covered the area south-west of the school, historically occupied by the Water Board and Sewerage Depot from 1897 to 1974 and later by Butler & Norman Pty Ltd. The assessment also included the demolition of a 1930s school toilet block. Mapping and field inspection indicated deep prior disturbance from utility installations, depot infrastructure, and later landscaping. The reports concluded that no intact relics or undisturbed deposits were likely to remain, and that the archaeological potential was very low.

**St Thomas Rest Park (2011)<sup>16</sup>**

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Casey & Lowe on 31 January – 1 February 2011 during drainage improvement works at St Thomas Rest Park, primarily along the north-western and western boundaries. The works aimed to alleviate waterlogging and involved the removal of an old footpath, shallow contouring, and installation of a new 600mm-wide trench for an agricultural drain and pit extending approximately 12m in length and 500mm in depth. It was observed that:

- The footpath area had previously been disturbed and was only slightly raised to improve fall; no excavation into undisturbed soil occurred.

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<sup>13</sup> Thorp, W., 1999, *Archaeological Assessment, North Sydney Olympic Pool Milsons Point*. Prepared for Brian McDonald & Associates on behalf of Hassell Pty Ltd Architects

<sup>14</sup> Archaeological & Heritage Management Solutions, 2003, *North Sydney Boys High School North Sydney NSW, Historical Archaeological & Development Impact Assessment, Proposed Stage 2 Development*. Prepared for NSW Department of Commerce

<sup>15</sup> Archaeological & Heritage Management Solutions, 2003, *North Sydney Boys High School North Sydney NSW, Historical Archaeological & Built Heritage Impact Assessment, Proposed Stage 3 Development*. Prepared for NSW Department of Commerce

<sup>16</sup> Casey & Lowe, 2011, *Archaeological Monitoring St Thomas Rest Park, Crows Nest*. Prepared for North Sydney Council

- The drainage trench exposed topsoil and disturbed silty clays to about 200 mm depth, overlying natural clay below 300–500 mm.
- The area showed evidence of prior disturbance from an older irrigation pipe and a lighting cable.
- No artefacts, grave cuts, or burial features were identified in any trench or contouring area.
- The northern end of the trench extended into land disturbed by the Warringah Expressway, outside the cemetery boundary, and was not monitored further.
- Additional shallow contouring at the park's western entrance involved removal of grass and topsoil to improve drainage; this also produced no archaeological material and no likely heritage impact.

The monitoring confirmed that the works had no impact on burial areas or archaeological deposits. All observed deposits consisted of disturbed topsoil and natural subsoil, with no evidence of human remains or historical relics. The archaeologist concluded that the cemetery boundaries were respected, and the drainage and contouring activities did not pose a heritage risk.

#### ***Western Harbour Tunnel, Berrys Bay (2022)<sup>17</sup>***

Archaeological investigations associated with the Western Harbour Tunnel at Berrys Bay revealed that despite extensive 20th-century disturbance connected with maritime industry, depot operations, land reclamation, and road infrastructure, pockets of 19th-century domestic archaeology survived where later impacts were shallow. Excavation of a former residence near the foreshore demonstrated that structural footings, yard surfaces, pathways, drainage elements and discrete refuse deposits could persist beneath later fill and landscaping.

#### ***St Pauls Anglican Church Cemetery Upgrade (2023)<sup>18</sup>***

Curio Projects prepared the HAA for St Paul's Anglican Carlingford Cemetery, located at 233 Marsden Road, Carlingford. The assessment supported a Development Application for proposed cemetery upgrades, including memorial walls, ash interment niches, gardens, and access paths.

The cemetery has been in continuous use and periodic maintenance since its establishment in 1851. The portion of the site subject to proposed works, located primarily within the northeastern section, contains areas of disturbed fill, uneven ground, and few visible grave markers, indicating prior modification. Historical inconsistencies between burial registers and surface evidence, especially within Section K, suggested localised potential for unmarked or unrecorded graves. The assessment determined that the archaeological potential within the proposed works area is moderate for unmarked burials and low for non-burial historical relics.

Proposed works involving shallow excavations, generally between 500 and 650 millimetres, which were deemed unlikely to disturb intact burials but may impact minor disturbed soils or fill deposits. To mitigate potential impacts, the report recommended archaeological monitoring under a Section 139(4) exception (or a Section 140 permit if deeper or additional excavation is required), with the preparation of an Archaeological Research Design.

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<sup>17</sup> RPS Group, 2022, *Western Harbour Tunnel – Berrys Bay, Archaeological Research Design & Excavation Methodology*. Prepared for Transport NSW.

<sup>18</sup> Curio Projects, 2023. *St Paul's Anglican Carlingford Cemetery: Historical Archaeological Assessment*. Prepared for St Paul's Anglican Carlingford and North Rocks

### 6.3.1. Summary of Findings in Relation to the Study Area

Previous assessments inclusive of or in close proximity to the study area have identified the following findings of relevance to archaeological potential:

- Deep, high-impact 20th-century redevelopment (Olympic Pool, NSBHS) typically results in very low archaeological survival.
- Shallow or no-basement redevelopment (Cremorne Road, Berrys Bay) typically results in moderate survival of domestic archaeological features.
- Cemetery-specific investigations (St Thomas Rest Park, St Paul's Anglican) have demonstrated that burials remain tightly contained within defined cemetery boundaries; no evidence of extramural burials spreading into adjacent residential blocks.

Placed in this context, the study area at Rosalind Street, redeveloped in the mid-20th century with no deep basements, likely shallow footing pads, and limited earthmoving, aligns more closely with Cremorne Road and Berrys Bay studies than with the heavily disturbed Olympic Pool or NSBHS sites. It is therefore reasonable to conclude that Phase 4 (1880s–1930s) domestic archaeology has a credible likelihood of surviving in truncated form, while earlier phases have low potential and burial potential is likely negligible.

### 6.4. Known Impacts

The extent to which physical remains of past occupation survive across any site is dependent on the nature of the archaeological remains and the modifications made to the study area following their construction or deposition. While each subsequent phase of development and occupation may contribute new deposits and features to the archaeological record, it may also remove or disturb deposits and features associated with previous phases of occupation. Deep structures such as cellars, wells and cess pits have a greater potential for survival than features located on former surfaces. Built structures are generally less easily disturbed than 'soft' artefact deposits such as yard soils or underfloor deposits.

The study area would have originally comprised part of the natural sandstone ridge landscape characteristic of the lower North Shore, supporting open eucalypt woodland with shallow sandy soils. During the pre-contact period, Aboriginal use of the area would have been focused on seasonal foraging and movement through the landscape. Activities such as temporary camping, shellfish processing, or hunting would have produced only minor and localised ground disturbance, resulting in negligible impact to the natural ground surface. Prior to European colonisation, the integrity of the soil profile and landform is therefore considered to have been largely intact.

Following the establishment of the colony in 1788, Aboriginal occupation and land use were severely disrupted, though the area around Cammeray remained relatively undeveloped bushland through the early contact period. Any disturbance from timber-getting, informal tracks, or resource collection would have been superficial. It is therefore likely that the natural topography and soil profile remained substantially intact until the mid-nineteenth century.

The establishment of St Thomas' Cemetery in 1847 would have marked the one of the first major European land use in proximity to the study area. While the cemetery itself is located approximately 85 metres north-west, its creation and associated infrastructure works would have encouraged further land clearance in the vicinity. During this period, the study area was likely subject to selective vegetation clearance and horticultural activity associated with small-scale farming or gardens supplying the local township. These activities would have caused shallow surface disturbance from cultivation, although no large-scale cut-and-fill works are expected to have occurred.

While the precise date of road formalisation of Rosalind Street is not recorded, it likely occurred in the mid to late nineteenth century, as part of broader land subdivision and grant activity in the greater North Sydney area. During this period, the surrounding landscape remained largely semi-rural and lightly developed. Road formation, kerb and gutter installation, and trenching for early services would have resulted in localised disturbance along the street frontage. The construction of early dwellings such as Albion Cottage (at 19 Rosalind Street) and neighbouring properties by the end of the nineteenth century introduced structural footings, outbuildings, privies, and garden landscaping. These works would have disturbed the upper soil horizon, particularly within and immediately around building footprints and service trenches.

Through the early to mid-twentieth century, the study area remained a residential setting. Incremental changes such as plumbing, electricity and gas installations, fencing, and garden maintenance would have caused further but relatively minor surface disturbance. Despite this, some potential for remnant subsurface deposits associated with earlier domestic occupation may have persisted in unsealed yard areas.

Substantial modification of the ground surface is likely to have occurred during the post-war redevelopment phase; however, the extent of disturbance is uncertain. The replacement of the nineteenth-century cottages with the existing three-storey brick flats between approximately 1955 and 1965 would have involved the demolition and clearance of earlier building remains, levelling of the site, and construction of new foundations. As the extant flats do not appear to include a basement or underground carpark, it is probable that the works were limited to surface preparation and the excavation of shallow footings and service trenches rather than bulk earthworks.

## 6.5. Summary of Post-1788 Land Use

As illustrated in the historical context and mapped historical overlays, the study area has been largely undeveloped but subject to four primary post-1788 land use phases, as presented in Table 6.4. Potential archaeological evidence of these post-1788 land use development and activities are also summarised in the table.

Table 6.4: Summary of development in the study area and associated potential archaeological resources.

Occupation Phase	Known Land Use and Development	Potential Archaeological Resources
<b>Phase 1</b> Pre-Contact Aboriginal Occupation (pre-1788)	Landscape comprised sandstone ridgelines, rock shelters, and access to Sydney Harbour's rich aquatic resources	Hunting, gathering, and seasonal movement, exploiting both terrestrial and marine food sources.
<b>Phase 2</b> Post-Contact European Arrival (1788-1830s)	Unknown use. Likely that the study area was not yet occupied or in the stages of early land grants.	Ephemeral evidence of informal land use such as clearing of vegetation (tree boles), landscape modification, informal development and animal grazing.
<b>Phase 3</b> Semi-Rural Use & Expansion (1840-1880s)	In 1845, Alexander Berry donated land for St Thomas Cemetery, approximately 85 m north-west of the site. The study area likely remained relatively undeveloped or low-intensity agricultural land and market gardens, on the fringes of the cemetery and early township.	Ephemeral evidence of informal land use such as clearing of vegetation (tree boles), landscape modification, informal development and garden formation.  Potential for archaeological evidence of burials outside of consecrated ground.

Occupation Phase	Known Land Use and Development	Potential Archaeological Resources
Phase 4 Residential Development (1880s- 1930s)	<p>'Albion Cottage' present from at least 1889, signalling the first permanent residential occupation of the study area.</p> <p>The area evolved from market gardens and smallholdings into a low-density residential neighbourhood.</p>	<p>Evidence for construction of cottages and associated infrastructure, earthworks for ground modification and construction, services and drainage.</p> <p>Yard deposits and informal ancillary structures may be present.</p>
Phase 5 Post-War Redevelopment (1950s-present)	<p>Between 1955 and 1965, the original cottages were replaced with the extant three-storey brick flats.</p> <p>This redevelopment marked the transition from single-family homes to multi-unit residential blocks, a response to post-war housing demand and population growth.</p>	<p>This phase is extant and therefore not considered to contain archaeological resources.</p>

## 6.6. Assessment of Archaeological Potential

Table 6.5 presents an assessment of archaeological potential, guided by previous investigations, known occupation and impacts in the study area.

Table 6.5: Archaeological assessment

Occupation Phase	Assessment of Archaeological Potential
Phase 1 Pre-Contact Aboriginal Occupation (pre-1788)	<p>While the broader landscape contains sandstone shelters and evidence of Aboriginal activity, the study area sits on a ridge landform that saw later vegetation clearance and repeated phases of European development. No known Aboriginal sites are recorded within or adjacent to the study area, and the ground surface has been subject to disturbance from 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century residential works, reducing the likelihood of intact Aboriginal archaeology. <b>Therefore, archaeological potential is considered to be low at depth.</b></p>
Phase 2 Post-Contact European Arrival (1788-1830s)	<p>The report identifies this period as one of limited or no structured occupation. The land remained bushland or was lightly used for grazing and timber-getting. Any archaeological signature from this phase would be ephemeral (tree boles, shallow clearance) and likely would not survive the later residential and post-war redevelopments. <b>Therefore, archaeological potential is considered to be nil-low.</b></p>

Occupation Phase	Assessment of Archaeological Potential
<p><b>Phase 3</b></p> <p>Semi-Rural Use &amp; Expansion (1840-1880s)</p>	<p>This phase marks the first structured European activity near the site (St Thomas' Cemetery, establishment of horticultural plots, subdivision pressure, formation of Rosalind Street). Disturbance consisted mainly of shallow vegetation clearance, gardening, and early track or road formation. The HAA identifies the possibility of informal or low-intensity agricultural activity, but no evidence suggests deep ground modification. Potential may exist only in isolated pockets where later development was shallow, though these deposits would be limited in their integrity.</p> <p>The potential for historic burials associated with St Thomas' Cemetery must also be considered due to its proximity. While burials outside consecrated ground are known from some early colonial contexts, all available historical, cartographic, and archaeological evidence indicates that St Thomas' operated as a clearly bounded and formally fenced Anglican cemetery from its establishment in 1845. Mapping consistently shows the burial ground contained fully within the donated 4-acre parcel, and no documentation suggests overflow, un-consecrated, or informal burials extending across West Street or onto what later became Rosalind Street allotments. Although the HAA notes a theoretical possibility of burials outside the cemetery during Phase 3, the likelihood is considered very low and limited to a generic background risk.</p> <p><b>Therefore, archaeological potential is considered to be nil-low.</b></p>
<p><b>Phase 4</b></p> <p>Residential Development (1880s-1930s)</p>	<p>The construction of Albion Cottage (from at least 1889), ancillary domestic structures, yards, privies, rubbish disposal, and drainage installation could have left archaeological deposits.</p> <p>Although the later 1950s–60s redevelopment likely disturbed these deposits, there is that no basement currently within the study area. This means truncated but potentially meaningful domestic archaeology may survive beneath buildings or in former yard spaces. <b>Therefore, archaeological potential is considered to be low-moderate.</b></p>
<p><b>Phase 5</b></p> <p>Post-War Redevelopment (1950s-present)</p>	<p>This phase represents the extant three-storey brick flats and their associated landscaping, driveways, and services. These structures are still standing; therefore, they do not represent archaeological material.</p>

## 6.7. Assessment of Archaeological Significance

The following assessment of archaeological significance is based on known occupation and development in the study area.

Table 6.6: Assessment of Archaeological Significance

Occupation Phase	Assessment of Archaeological Significance
<p><b>Phase 1</b></p> <p>Pre-Contact Aboriginal Occupation (pre-1788)</p>	<p>Any surviving Aboriginal material, if present, would potentially be highly fragmentary. While any tangible connection to the past is culturally and socially significant, it is unlikely that resources would be archaeologically significant.</p>
<p><b>Phase 2</b></p> <p>Post-Contact European Arrival (1788-1830s)</p>	<p>Material from this phase, if present, would not demonstrate specific historical processes beyond broad land-use patterns already well researched elsewhere. <b>It would not hold research potential nor satisfy thresholds for local or State archaeological significance.</b></p>

Occupation Phase	Assessment of Archaeological Significance
Phase 3 Semi-Rural Use & Expansion (1840-1880s)	Any remains from this phase would be common, repetitive, and unlikely to yield meaningful research data. The potential for extramural burials is generic and not supported by the cemetery's known boundaries; therefore, burial significance does not apply. <b>Overall significance for this phase remains low and unlikely to satisfy thresholds for local or State archaeological significance.</b>
Phase 4 Residential Development (1880s-1930s)	Domestic archaeology from late 19 <sup>th</sup> to early 20 <sup>th</sup> century working-class households is common in Sydney, but it retains local research significance where intact contexts survive. Surviving deposits could help demonstrate early suburbanisation at Cammeray, residential consumption patterns, and the transition from semi-rural to suburban land use. <b>Significance would depend on nature and integrity but is unlikely to exceed the local threshold (if satisfied).</b>
Phase 5 Post-War Redevelopment (1950s-present)	Material from this phase is contemporary built fabric rather than archaeological remains and does not contribute to potential archaeological research questions.

### 6.7.1. Statement of Archaeological Research Significance

The archaeological resource at 19–23 Rosalind Street, Cammeray is expected to be limited, fragmentary, and largely restricted to remains associated with late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century residential occupation (Phase 4). Earlier phases are unlikely to be represented by intact or interpretable archaeological deposits due to the shallow nature of original land use and the cumulative impacts of subdivision, residential construction, and mid 20<sup>th</sup> century redevelopment.

Under **Criterion E – Archaeological Research Potential**, the study area is considered to have **low research potential** for archaeological material relating to Phase 4 domestic occupation, such as yard deposits, refuse disposal practices, service installation, or structural footings associated with Albion Cottage and neighbouring early dwellings. Although these deposits are likely truncated, they may still yield information about everyday working-class life in a developing North Shore suburb. All other phases hold **low to nil research potential** due to either the absence of known occupation (Phases 1–2), the minimal archaeological signature expected from semi-rural land use (Phase 3), or the extant/non-archaeological nature of post-war flats (Phase 5).

Under **Criteria A, B and D – Historical, Associational, and Social Significance**, no phase of development within the study area is known to have associations with individuals, groups, or events of historical importance beyond the ordinary patterns of suburban growth in North Sydney. The site does not have demonstrated connections with prominent figures, institutional uses, or place-based community identity. Accordingly, archaeological remains that may survive are not anticipated to reach significance under these criteria.

Under **Criterion C – Aesthetic/Technical Significance**, no archaeological features of aesthetic value or unusual technical accomplishment are expected to be present or survive. The expected archaeological resource consists of routine domestic deposits with no anticipated capacity to contribute aesthetically or technically to an understanding of the past.

Under **Criteria A, C, F and G – Ability to Demonstrate Past Ways of Life**, only Phase 4 archaeology holds limited potential to demonstrate aspects of mid 20<sup>th</sup> century suburban domestic life, including yard organisation, building techniques, rubbish disposal, and the development of working-class dwellings on the North Shore. However, similar deposits are commonplace across Sydney, and any

surviving remains would be unlikely to represent rare, unusual, or exemplary features. Their significance would therefore be at most of **local value** and contingent on the survival of coherent archaeological contexts.

Overall, the archaeological significance of the study area is assessed as **low**. No phase is assessed as meeting a State-level threshold. The site does not contain known relics of exceptional rarity, technical achievement, or high research potential. The archaeological resource therefore contributes primarily to an understanding of the ordinary suburban development of Cammeray during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and its significance lies in that localised historical narrative rather than broader regional or State themes.

## 6.8. Historical Archaeological Impact Assessment

The potential of the proposed works to impact an archaeological resource is assessed below in consideration of the relevant questions from the Heritage Division's (now Heritage NSW, DPC) guidelines for Statements of Heritage Impact (2023).

Historical archaeological deposits, resources, relics and features have constantly been encountered beneath existing development layers of historical fill across the entire Sydney area. The past archaeological work in Sydney has demonstrated that historical archaeological resources from previous phases of historical use and occupation may have potential to remain within the study area.

The major physical impact of this proposal will be the excavation of the two-level basement (Table 6.7). An overlay (Figure 6.1) has been developed to demonstrate the previous structures within the footprint of the proposed basement.



Figure 6.1: Overlay of Known Structures and Impacts

Table 6.7: Statement of Heritage Impact Questions

Heritage Consideration	Discussion
Is the proposed development on any known, or potentially significant archaeological deposits?	<p data-bbox="520 315 1385 674">Yes. The proposed development has the potential to impact archaeological deposits associated with Phase 4, which includes the former Albion Cottage and associated yard spaces. While these deposits are likely to be fragmentary and truncated by mid 20<sup>th</sup> century redevelopment, there remains the likelihood that subsurface features such as structural footings, yard deposits, refuse lenses, service trenches, and other domestic archaeological material may survive beneath the footprint of the existing flat buildings or in areas that were only levelled rather than excavated during the Phase 5 redevelopment. These remains are assessed as having low-moderate local archaeological significance due to their ability to demonstrate patterns of early suburban development in Cammeray.</p> <p data-bbox="520 685 1385 813">The proposed basement excavation, which extends 5.4–9 m below current ground level across almost the entire site, will completely remove any surviving archaeological deposits from this period within the footprint of the basement and associated works.</p> <p data-bbox="520 824 1385 981">There is a very low likelihood of archaeological deposits associated with earlier phases due to limited original land use, shallow disturbance profiles, and subsequent redevelopment. The potential for burials associated with St Thomas Cemetery has been assessed as negligible, with no evidence that burials extended beyond the formally bounded cemetery parcel.</p> <p data-bbox="520 992 1385 1120">Overall, while archaeological potential is low to nil for most phases, the site is considered to contain low-moderate potential for archaeological deposits relating to Phase 4 residential occupation, and these will be directly impacted by the proposed development.</p>

## 7. Conclusions and Recommendations

## 7. Conclusions and Recommendations

### 7.1. Conclusions

The archaeological assessment for 19–23 Rosalind Street indicates that the study area has undergone multiple phases of occupation and development that have cumulatively shaped the nature and survival of historical archaeological resources. The earliest phases (pre-contact Aboriginal use, early post-contact occupation, and mid-19th-century semi-rural land use) are unlikely to be represented in the archaeological record due to the ephemeral nature of early activities and the extent of subsequent disturbance. Archaeological potential associated with these phases is assessed as nil-low.

The primary period of archaeological interest is the late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century residential occupation (Phase 4), during which structures such as Albion Cottage and other working-class dwellings were constructed on the site. Comparative archaeological work across North Sydney have demonstrated that structural footings, yard surfaces, refuse deposits, drainage elements and other domestic features can survive beneath later development where deep excavation has not occurred. At Rosalind Street, the construction of mid 20<sup>th</sup> century residential flats did not involve basement excavation and likely relied on shallow footings and surface levelling. Accordingly, truncated but interpretable archaeological deposits associated with Phase 4 may remain beneath the existing buildings and surrounding ground surfaces.

No evidence exists to suggest that unmarked burials associated with St Thomas' Cemetery extend into the study area. Historical and archaeological investigations confirm that the cemetery was contained within its defined boundary, and the likelihood of encountering burials at Rosalind Street is considered negligible.

The proposed development will involve excavation to depths of approximately 5.4–9 m across almost the entire site to accommodate a two-level basement. These works will remove all surviving archaeological deposits within the basement footprint, should they be present. Given that the site contains some potential for the presence of archaeological resources of potential local significance, the proposed development is considered to have a high archaeological impact.

### 7.2. Recommendations

#### Recommendation 1: Heritage Induction

Prior to any work commencing on site the project archaeologist, with assistance the site contractor, will prepare a heritage induction document/presentation that will be presented to all relevant on-site personnel. The induction would include information to clarify the heritage significance of the site's potential archaeological resource including:

- The potential nature of archaeological resources.
- An outline of the archaeological process on site and introduction of the relevant personnel.
- Plan showing the location of potential archaeological features.
- Images to assist understanding for on-site personnel of the types of archaeological features that may be present.
- Repercussions of any breaches to the approved archaeological strategy.

## Recommendation 2: Archaeological Research Design & Monitoring

Given the gradient between nil to low/moderate potential for various phases and activities across the study area, a program of archaeological monitoring has been recommended.

All ground disturbing works, should be subject to archaeological monitoring to identify any potential archaeological features that may be impacted during works. An excavation methodology outlining the monitoring program and thresholds for stop work protocols should be developed and attached as an addendum to this report (Appendix A – Archaeological Research Design).

## Recommendation 3 – Human Remains Procedure

While not anticipated to be encountered within the study area, the unexpected discovery of any potential skeletal remains during development works would be managed in accordance with the approved Heritage NSW protocol for the discovery of human remains which is stated as:

If any suspected human remains are discovered and/or harmed the proponent must:

1. Not further harm these remains.
2. Immediately cease all work at the particular location.
3. Secure the area so as to avoid further harm to the remains.
4. Notify the local police, Planning Secretary and Heritage NSW's Environment Line on 131 555 as soon as practicable and provide any available details of the remains and their location.
5. If human remains are suspected to be of Aboriginal descent, notify Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council and involve them in the assessment, recording and next steps.
6. Not recommence any work at the particular location unless authorised in writing by Heritage NSW.

## 7.3. Mitigation Measures Summary

The following mitigation measures have been developed in response to the conclusions and recommendations of this archaeological report.

Table 7.1: Mitigation Measures for Historical Archaeology

Project Stage	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Section of Report
<b>Design (D)</b>		
<b>Construction (C)</b>		
<b>Operation (O)</b>		
D	<b>Archaeological Research Design:</b> The name of a nominated Excavation Director suitable to satisfy the Excavation Director Criteria of the Heritage Council of NSW for the proposed activity and significance level should be provided. Details of the Methodology to be undertaken by the nominated Excavation Director, whether a watching brief, periodic inspection, 'toolbox talk' inductions or other strategies implemented to manage the impacts as assessed by the archaeological document.	Section 6 and 7 Appendix A

Project Stage Design (D) Construction (C) Operation (O)	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Section of Report
C	<b>Heritage Induction:</b> Prior to any work commencing on site the project archaeologist will prepare a heritage induction document/presentation that will be presented to all relevant on-site personnel.	Section 3 and 6
C	<b>Monitoring:</b> During ground disturbing works, archaeological monitoring should occur in the event that remnant structural or artefact deposits are identified.	Section 6, Appendix A
C	<b>Human Remains Protocol:</b> In the event that human remains are identified on site during works, the protocol for human remains must be followed.	Section 3.2, 6.6, 6.8

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# Appendix A – Archaeological Research Design

## Appendix A – Archaeological Research Design

### General

An Archaeological Research Design identifies and establishes the rationale, context, questions and methodology for the archaeological investigation of a site. The rationale is established through the assessment process (i.e., the 2025 HAA) which identifies the past occupation of the study area and the heritage values and research potential of the likely archaeological resource. The questions focus on recovering the values or 'unknown' information or gaps in information about the past that may be recoverable, and which may be lost if the archaeological resource is disturbed or destroyed. In turn, research questions focus the development of excavation and recording methods to recover the information or values of the study area.

To mitigate impacts on the potential historical archaeological resources within study area the following archaeological works are proposed:

- General Archaeological Monitoring
- Unexpected Finds Protocol

In addition, archaeological work should be guided by research questions which place the work within an established research framework. The research questions which will guide any archaeological work are also included here.

### Heritage Induction

Prior to any work commencing on site the Excavation Director (ED), with assistance from Curio Projects personnel, and the Site Contractor, will prepare a heritage induction document/presentation that will be presented to all relevant on-site personnel. A heritage induction will be approved and presented by the nominated ED. The induction would include information to clarify the heritage significance of the site's potential archaeological resource including:

- The nature of archaeological resources.
- An outline of the archaeological process on site and introduction of the relevant personnel.
- Explanation of the Unexpected Finds Procedure.
- Plan showing the location of potential archaeological features.
- Images to assist understanding for on-site personnel of the types of archaeological features that may be present.
- Repercussions of any breaches to the approved archaeological strategy.

### Excavation Methodology

#### Nominated Team

Archaeological investigation works would be directed by Rebecca Agius, who would be nominated as the Primary Excavation Director and Sebastian Gerber-Hood, who would be the Secondary Excavation Director. Rebecca and Sebastian have both worked extensively within the Sydney metropolitan area on excavations of local and State Heritage listed sites and places.

The remaining team, if required, would comprise assistant archaeologists and a site planner, who would be drawn from Curio's pool of permanent staff and sub-consultants. On-site planning would be carried out by an experienced archaeologist, who would also be responsible for the collation of site drawings. Guy Hazel, who has experience of previous excavation recording at numerous sites around NSW, would provide specialist surveying and orthophoto services, should any significant features be identified. Curio also has access to drone photography if required.

### Site Preparation and Timing

Proposed monitoring works will occur after SSDA approval, with the removal of hardstand surfaces and topsoils being monitored by an archaeologist.

### Archaeological Monitoring

The monitoring program will ensure that all ground-disturbing works outside of the designated test excavation zone is subject to appropriate archaeological oversight. Monitoring will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist.

The monitoring will involve:

- Observation of excavation activities within the project footprint.
- Visual inspection of exposed profiles, soil matrices, and excavation spoil during the course of works.
- The capacity to temporarily halt works should any potential archaeological material be identified, further investigated, enabling appropriate recording, assessment, and (if required) salvage.

### Triggers to Halt Work

Archaeological monitoring personnel will have the authority to temporarily stop works if any of the following are encountered:

- Structural remains (e.g. sandstone footings, walls, paved surfaces)
- Artefact-rich deposits or layers (e.g. cesspits, wells, refuse deposits)
- Other features (e.g. drains, culverts)

### Response to Triggers

- Immediate cessation of work in the vicinity of the find.
- Preliminary recording and assessment by the archaeologist.
- Notification to the proponent, Heritage NSW, and Metro LALC (for suspected Aboriginal objects).
  - Stone footings, brick walls, or foundation trenches
  - Wells, cisterns, cesspits, or drainage channels
  - High densities of artefact deposits (not isolated finds)
  - Yard/agricultural land modification features
- Formulation of a site-specific mitigation or management plan, such as detailed recording, sampling, salvage excavation, or avoidance measures. This will also include advice and/or guidance from Heritage NSW.
- Works to recommence only following archaeological clearance and approval of the management response.

### Salvage Excavation

Should the test trenches and/or monitoring indicate that no significant archaeological deposits or features remain in the study area, then the archaeologist will record the deposits exposed in the trenches to indicate the nature of the remains beneath the existing surface, and complete a short

report. No further archaeological involvement will be proposed based on the conclusion of this short report, owing to the fact that that no 'relics' are present. Results that would not require further investigation includes (but not limited to):

- Isolated artefacts or highly disturbed deposits
- Features that extend outside of the study area or impact zones
- Fill layers or truncated contexts with limited interpretive value
- Structures or materials assessed as below the significance threshold

However, should it be identified that open area salvage excavation be needed, this process will focus on expanding test trenches where clear, stratified, or mappable features are identified including:

- Structural remains of buildings, outbuildings etc.
- Deeper sub-surface features (cesspits, wells, cisterns etc.)
- Underfloor and exterior deposits, or yard features

This section pre-emptively outlines the potential need for salvage to occur, should the monitoring program demonstrate extensive archaeological resources. A more detailed ARD can be produced to tailor an open area salvage methodology. Should a tailored excavation methodology be required to investigate the site, the methodology would need to be approved by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) in consultation with Heritage NSW prior to implementation.

The archaeological salvage and recording program, should it proceed, will focus on the areas identified as containing archaeological relics of significance that will be disturbed or removed by works during development.

These areas/deposits, with potential 'relics' will be excavated in their entirety, recording any significant deposits, collecting artefacts from these deposits, and recording the remains of former structures, yard spaces and surfaces in these areas. The deposits will be removed by hand until sterile natural or deposits of no significance are exposed. Given the period of erection and use of the anticipated structures, occupation deposits may not be present, and structural elements may be the only remnants extant. In that case the building elements will be completely exposed, their footprints and individual elements recorded, and they will be removed.

Where the investigations indicate substantial disturbance or removal of archaeological deposits then these areas will not be subject to comprehensive salvage excavation but may be sampled at the discretion of the ED.

If State significant relics are found during works, the Heritage Council of NSW will be notified in accordance with Section 146 of the Heritage Act 1977. This notification takes place in the form of a completion of the relevant form on the Heritage NSW "Heritage Management System" web interface. The position, extent and condition of the finds will be recorded, and they will remain in-situ during any discussions with Heritage NSW.

Depending on the assessed significance of the find, it may be necessary to undertake additional assessment and management recommendations related to the new information, and the design and planning of the proposed redevelopment may have to be reassessed/redesigned in order to avoid impacts to the State significant archaeological resources.

In the event that excavation works identify archaeological features or deposits of potential State significance, or features requiring in-situ conservation, the Excavation Director will initiate formal liaison with the design and construction teams, in tandem with guidance from Heritage NSW. This will include:

- Immediate notification to the project manager and relevant design leads.
- Provision of a preliminary archaeological assessment of the feature's significance and spatial extent.
- Participation of the Excavation Director in relevant design or construction coordination meetings to advise on heritage constraints, options for avoidance or design modifications, and potential program implications.
- Engage a qualified materials conservator or heritage engineer to assess stabilisation needs and inform the development of a site-specific conservation or management plan.
- All such consultations and decisions will be documented in the site's heritage record and project communications log.

Works may only recommence with the written approval of Heritage NSW.

### Unexpected Finds Protocol

The archaeological methodology outlined in this report anticipates recording and sampling of potential archaeology at the site, particularly within the boundary of the proposed basement. However, there is potential that unexpected significant physical evidence associated with the phases of occupation may be present in other areas of the site. Such unexpected remains may include, but not be limited to:

- Deep cut wells, reservoirs and pits associated occupation at the site.
- Structural remains and artefacts.
- Rubbish pits containing waste and discarded artefacts disposed of away from surrounding housing.
- Other unexpected remains.

Unexpected finds do not include isolated artefacts, and building remains that may form part of fill deposits. If unexpected finds are exposed or disturbed work should cease in that area and the project Excavation Director notified of the find as soon as practicable. Do not move the item or attempt to further disturb it. Take a photo and forward to the Excavation Director and they will discuss and advise the next step which may include, but not be limited to:

- A site visit by the archaeologist.
- An instruction to move the item.
- No further action required.

The Excavation Director will assess the archaeological research significance of all Unexpected Finds, and this assessment will determine the action to be followed. These may include:

- No further action (i.e., the find is not significant).
- Retention of isolated artefacts, that otherwise are assessed as of low archaeological research potential, as items for possible use in interpreting the site, display, etc.
- Recording of the location of the find.
  - Retaining artefact(s) of research potential for the archaeological collection and further analysis.
  - Further recording and excavation to expose larger features/structural remains.

- Notification of the find(s) to Heritage NSW and further liaison with them.
- Additional research to identify larger features if not previously identified in the historical record.
- Reassessment of the significance of the unexpected find considering this research.

Some of the attributes of any unexpected finds that may determine if further advice is sought from NSW Heritage regarding the find are:

- Larger previously unrecorded features especially structural remains.
- Suspected human remains.<sup>19</sup>
- Evidence for Aboriginal occupation of the site.
- Rare or unusual find.

### Recording and Reporting

If relics are exposed in any excavation, they will be archaeologically recorded. The recording process will include the following:

- Establish site grid by survey or use an existing one developed by the client. Detailed digital survey and mapping of the area based on that grid would be undertaken which will record all features.
- Locate extent of test trench excavation areas in relation to existing structures and archaeological remains.
- Use of a small excavator (1-3 ton) to open areas and remove overburden/fill if required. The extent and depth of this machine work will be at the direction of the archaeological team.
- Manual (hand) excavation of exposed relics using hand tools (shovels and trowels).
- Where deposits are found undertake detailed stratigraphic excavation and recording.
- Use of context recording forms and context numbers to record all archaeological information.
- Use of Harris matrix as part of the recording program.
- Wells and cesspits excavated in 200 mm spits or tip lines (where identifiable and the deposits sieved).
- All structural remains, post holes, and features will be planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50.
- Detailed photographic recording.
- All artefacts will be collected except from unstratified fills.

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<sup>19</sup> Should potential human remains be uncovered the processes and procedures contained within the *Skeletal Remains; Guidelines for Management of Human Skeletal Remains* published in 1998 by Heritage NSW would be followed.

- Samples of bricks and mortar will be collected from features or unexpected structures.
- Collection, labelling, safe storage, washing, sorting and boxing of artefacts by artefact specialists along with palynological analysis and materials conservators as appropriate.
- A final report detailing the investigation, its results and addressing the Research Design questions would be completed within 12 months of the work being completed on the site, The report would include:
  - An introduction and executive summary.
  - Planning framework.
  - Site history supplemented by additional research.
  - Archaeological background.
  - Archaeological investigation methodology, results and site recordings
  - Analysis and catalogue detailing all historical cultural material recovered.
  - Maps and site plans.
  - Photo catalogue.
  - Artefact catalogue.
  - Reassessments of significance.
  - Interpretation of results and addressing of Research Design questions.
  - Conclusions and recommendations.
  - Identification of repository for artefacts and site records.
- The artefacts, site records and final report would be presented to the client/site owner for curation.

### Artefact Management and Analysis

Recovered artefacts will be sorted, cleaned, separated and bagged on site, ready for cataloguing and analysis off site. The artefact collection will have a Type Series established and the collection will be divided into material types and standard Activity/Function/Sub-function groupings. Artefacts will be bagged and labelled with unique database ID numbers linked through the catalogue to context, Type Series, Images, and historical information. Specialists will be contracted to provide advice, conservation and analysis as required based on the findings.

The client will need to provide a repository for storage, in perpetuity, of any artefacts recovered from the site. This is to be discussed with the client following the conclusion of the archaeological program at the site and would be confirmed in the post excavation report. The final location of this repository, whether on-site or not, would be determined after negotiations with the client.

### Research Questions

The following questions provide a contemporary research framework for the proposed archaeological monitoring program:

- What evidence survives of the layout and material character of earlier dwellings on the site?
- What domestic behaviours or routines can be inferred from surviving yard deposits or refuse?
- Do the archaeological deposits correlate with occupants identified in historical records?

- What can archaeological material tell us about the nature of working-class suburban life in Cammeray at the turn of the century?
- Do any surviving deposits provide evidence of mid-20th-century domestic life prior to demolition for the flats?
- How does the archaeological evidence refine or challenge existing historical narratives about suburban development in Cammeray?



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