HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

SIRIUS SITE, 2-60 CUMBERLAND STREET, THE ROCKS.

16 FEBRUARY 2021
P0019042
FINAL
PREPARED FOR SIRIUS DEVELOPMENTS PTY LTD

URBIS

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Urbis acknowledges the important contribution that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make in creating a strong and vibrant Australian society.

We acknowledge in each of our offices the Traditional Owners on whose land we stand.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Urbis has been commissioned by Sirius Developments Pty Ltd (the Proponent) to prepare a Historic Archaeological Assessment (HAA) for the State Significant Development Application (SSDA) for the adaptive reuse of the Sirius Building (hereafter referred to as 'the subject area').

The proposed development is located on Lot 100 and 101 DP264104, 2-60 Cumberland Street, The Rocks, within the bounds of the City of Sydney Council Local Government Area (LGA) (see Figure 1 and Figure 2). The development will involve the adaptation of existing facilities in a sympathetic manner to the heritage character of the building for re-use as private residential dwellings.

The proposed development also involves upgrade to public infrastructure (Public Domain Works), on land managed by Place Management New South Wales. This will involve the installation of stormwater pipe and three stormwater pits.

This HAA is prepared to address the relevant Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the SSD (SSD-10384), which stated:

> *If the SOHI identifies impact on potential historical and/or maritime archaeology, a historical and/or maritime archaeological assessment must be undertaken to identify what relics, if any, are likely to be present, assess their significance and consider the impacts from the proposal on this potential archaeological resource.*

The Sirius building occupies a site that has been subject to continuous development over the past c.100 years, including late 19th century terraces, the resumption periods and the construction of public works offices within the subject area, and finally the demolition of existing buildings and construction of Sirius. Generally, the high level of disturbance associated with the cutting into sandstone bedrock for the construction of Sirius, along with continuous periods of redevelopment from c.1880-1970s have likely resulted in the removal of all potential archaeological resources across the subject area. This is supported by geotechnical investigation, which identifies that the basement of Sirius sits on sandstone bedrock overlain by concrete slab, a small portion of imported fill, and another layer of concrete slab. The fill layers are identified as containing materials such as blue metal and concrete fragments, suggesting they are modern, imported fill introduced during the construction of the Sirius building. Consequently, the potential for archaeological resources within the footprint of the Sirius building is extremely low to nil.

Sandstone blocks with degraded mortar were identified about the natural sandstone bedrock in the boiler room, the origins of which are unknown. While these blocks may represent structural remains from earlier developments, they are more likely to be functional in nature, representing a retaining wall at the edge of the Sirius development.

There is **nil-extremely low** potential for archaeological resources to occur below the Sirius building. Should materials have been anticipated however, they would likely have been of state significance due to their connection with significant phases of development of the colony of Sydney and The Rocks.

There is **low** potential for archaeological resources to occur below the surface of Gloucester Walk (formerly Gloucester Street). This is due to the change in alignment and generally low disturbance within this area. Archaeological resources which may occur include early forms of road surface are anticipated to be of local significance for their ability to provide information regarding changing road alignments and materials throughout the resumptions period within The Rocks. Potential archaeological resources below Gloucester Walk are anticipated to be disturbed and truncated, reducing research potential and thus significance.

Overall the archaeological potential for the entire subject area is determined to be generally low.

The proposed works are not anticipated to impact on any archaeological materials. The sandstone wall visible in the boiler room basement is not proposed to be impacted.

Recommendations for the Sirius Building:

Based on the above conclusions, Urbis provides the following recommendations for the Sirius Site under SSD 10384:

Recommendation 1 – Protection of Sandstone Wall.

1. The sandstone wall in the basement should be protected from any indirect impact from the proposed works. This should be done through fencing, covering with geotextile and sandbags or tarp during works in the vicinity.

2. An archival recording of the sandstone wall in the basement should be undertaken if any works which will directly impact the wall are proposed, with the blocks to be re-used.

Recommendation 2 – Archaeological Chance Find Procedure

In general, the HAA identified extremely low to nil potential for archaeological resources under the Sirius building. Although considered highly unlikely, should any archaeological deposits be uncovered during any site works, a chance find procedure must be implemented. The following steps must be carried out:

1. All works stop in the vicinity of the find. The find must not be moved 'out of the way' without following the steps below.
2. Site supervisor, or another nominated site representative must contact either the project archaeologist (if relevant) or DPIE to contact a suitably qualified archaeologist.
3. The nominated archaeologist examines the find, provides a preliminary assessment of significance, records the item and decides on appropriate management.
4. Depending on the significance of the find, reassessment of the archaeological potential of the subject area and application for relevant permit may be required, and further archaeological investigation undertaken.
5. Works in the vicinity of the find can only recommence upon relevant approvals from DPIE.

Recommendation 3 – Human Remains Procedure

In the unlikely event that human remains are uncovered during any site works, the following must be undertaken:

1. All works within the vicinity of the find immediately stop.
2. Site supervisor or other nominated manager must notify the NSW Police and DPIE.
3. The find must be assessed by the NSW Police, and may include the assistance of a qualified forensic anthropologist.
4. Management recommendations are to be formulated by the Police, DPIE and site representatives.
5. Works are not to recommence until the find has been appropriately managed.

Recommendations for Gloucester Walk

Urbis provides the following recommendations for the Public domain works under SSD 10834:

Recommendation 1 –Archaeological Monitoring under Section 139 Excavation Exemption Permit

1. Archaeological monitoring of works within the Public Domain area should be undertaken to ensure no potential relics are harmed during the works.
2. This monitoring should be carried out under a Section 139 Excavation Exemption permit to be processed under the delegated authority of Place Management NSW rather than HNSW. The Section 139 permit will require landowner's consent; however it will not require that nomination of a specific site director.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

Urbis has been commissioned by Sirius Developments Pty Ltd (the Proponent) to prepare a Historic Archaeological Assessment (HAA) for the State Significant Development Application (SSDA) for the adaptive reuse of the Sirius Building (hereafter referred to as 'the subject area').

The proposed development is located on Lot 100 and 101 DP264104, 2-60 Cumberland Street, The Rocks, within the bounds of the City of Sydney Council Local Government Area (LGA) (see Figure 1 and Figure 2). The development will involve the adaptation of existing facilities in a sympathetic manner to the heritage character of the building for re-use as private residential dwellings.

The proposed development also involves upgrade to public infrastructure (Public Domain Works), on land managed by Place Management New South Wales. This will involve the installation of stormwater pipe and three stormwater pits.

This HAA is prepared to address the relevant Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the SSD (SSD-10384), as outlined in Table 1.

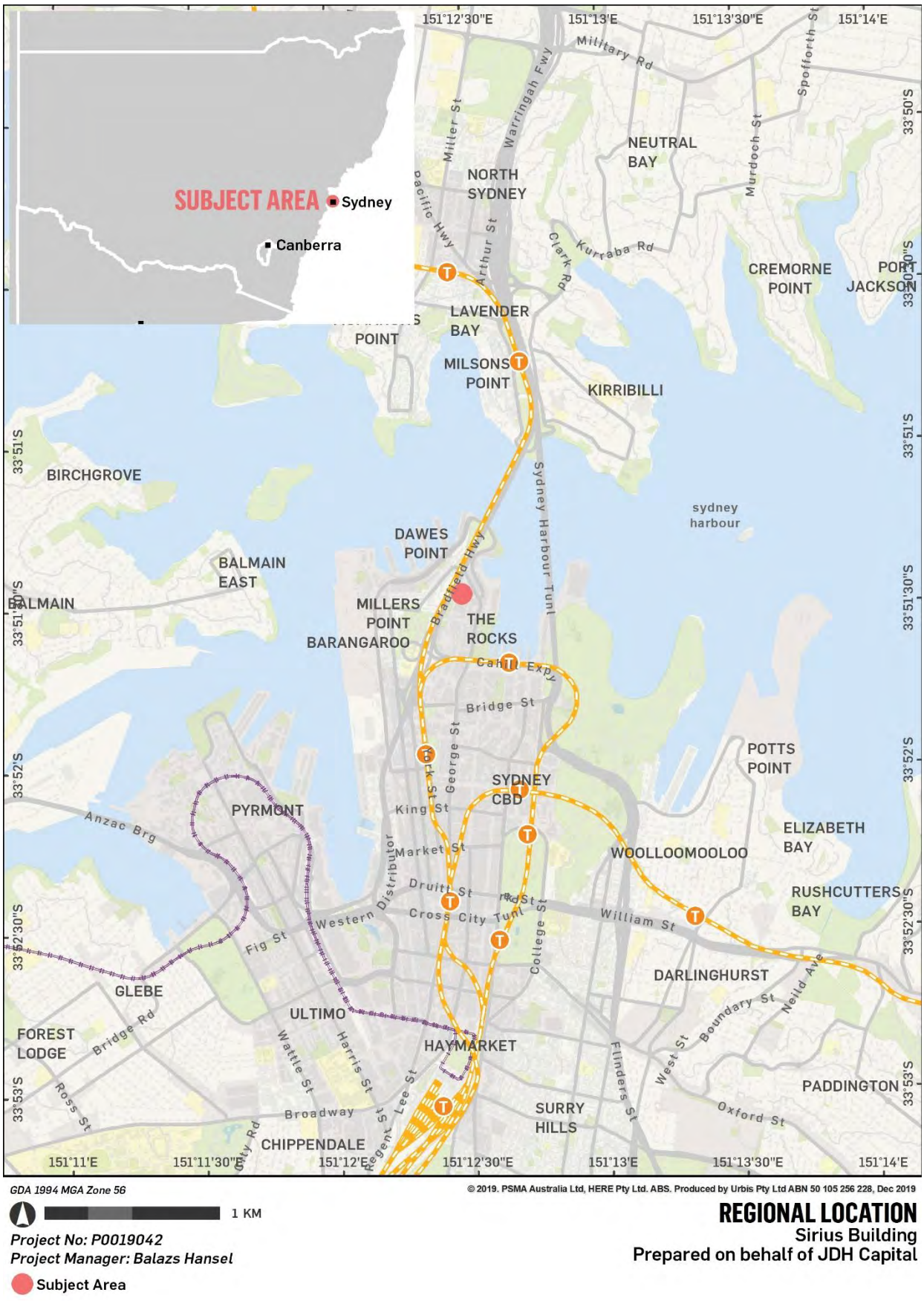
Table 1 – relevant SEARs

Sears Item	Report Section
if the SOHI identifies impact on potential historical and/or maritime archaeology, a historical and/or maritime archaeological assessment must be undertaken to identify what relics, if any, are likely to be present, assess their significance and consider the impacts from the proposal on this potential archaeological resource	Section 5 & 7

Further to this requirement, the SEARs also identifies the need for an '*Aboriginal and historical archaeological impact assessment'* in the Plans and Documents section detailing the requirements of the EIS. This has been prepared by Urbis and is under a different cover.

1.2. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE SUBJECT AREA

The site is located on Lot 100 and 101 DP264104, 2-60 Cumberland Street, The Rocks. The site is within the City of Sydney LGA. The subject area comprises of the Sirius Building, constructed in 1980, and the associated gardens and infrastructure including Gloucester Walk, a pedestrian walkway running to the west of Sirius which will be upgraded as part of the development.



GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

1 KM

Project No: P0019042
Project Manager: Balazs Hansel

Subject Area

REGIONAL LOCATION
Sirius Building
Prepared on behalf of JDH Capital

Figure 1 – Regional Location

Figure 2 –Location of the subject area.

1.3. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposed development is for the restoration and refurbishment of the existing Sirius building, including alterations and additions. The existing building is proposed to be substantially retained and restored with integrity. New residential additions are proposed to be added to the existing structure in appropriate locations to maintain the legibility of the original architectural form, and new structures for commercial uses are proposed to be added at the Cumberland Street and Gloucester Walk frontages of the site.

The existing Sirius building has a varied height profile due to its modular form and due to the fall across the site when observed from Cumberland Street and from Gloucester Walk. The existing building rises from the north and south towards a central tower with a maximum height of 34.6m above ground level at Cumberland Street (equivalent to an 11-storey building). Due to the existing split-level apartments, the building is conveyed as having a greater number of levels (25 storeys).

The proposed alterations and additions to the existing building will increase the overall building height by 5.4m to a maximum building height of 40.9m above ground level at Cumberland Street. On the Cumberland Street entry side of the site, the building presents as thirteen (13) levels at the highest occupied level. When observed from Gloucester Walk, and due to the fall across the site, the building presents as fourteen (14) occupied levels.

The building incorporates two levels of basement car parking.

The proposed works include:

- Alterations and additions to the existing building to provide for:
  - Residential accommodation (a total of 76 apartments);
  - Commercial premises, including retail floorspace; and
  - Basement car parking.
- Provision of a through-site link between Cumberland Street and Gloucester Walk.
- Upgrades to Gloucester Walk including landscaping and pedestrian access.
- Improvements to Cumberland Street including landscaping and improved carpark entry.
- Associated works, including:
  - Minor demolition works;
  - Earthworks;
  - Structural upgrades;
  - Services upgrades; and
  - Landscaping works.

1.3.1. Public Domain Works

As part of this proposal, the following works are proposed in the public domain (see Figure 4 & Figure 5) :

- Stone paving to Cumberland St replacing the existing asphalt paving – minimal excavation.
- Replacement brick paving to Gloucester Walk – minimal excavation.
- Tree planting to the pocket park at the northern end of the site.
- New pit and stormwater line (150 diameter) to part of Gloucester walk. Civil Engineer advice trench 500 wide x 1000 deep.

These works do form part of SSD 10384 but will be undertaken on land owned by Place Management New South Wales (PMNSW). Therefore, the consent of PMNSW, who are the land managers for this area, must be obtained prior to these works being undertaken.

Figure 3 – Proposed Activity/development

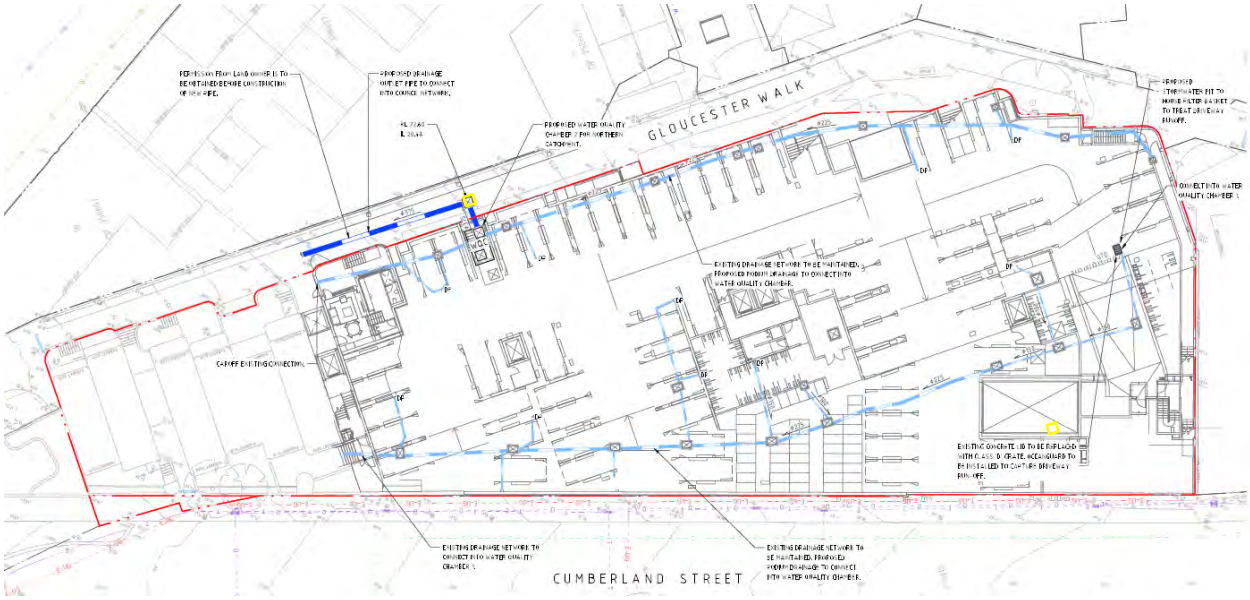


Figure 4 – Proposed public domain works, overlay in red. Location of stormwater pits in yellow.

Source: plans provided by BVN

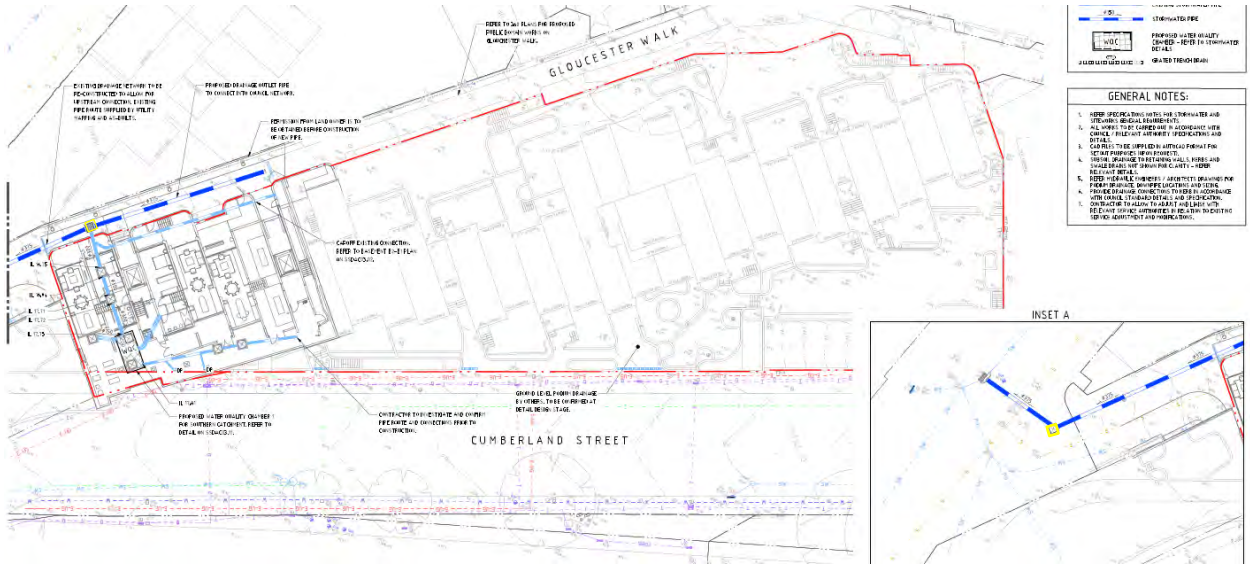


Figure 5 – Proposed public domain works, overlay in red. Location of stormwater pits in yellow.

Source: plans provided by BVN

1.4. AUTHOR IDENTIFICATION AND METHODOLOGY

This HAA has been prepared by Meggan Walker (Urbis, Consultant), Andrew Crisp (Urbis, Senior Consultant) and Balazs Hansel (Urbis, Associate Director).

Meggan Walker has a Bachelor of Arts (Honours – First Class in Archaeology) from the University of Sydney. Andrew has a Bachelor of Arts (Honours - First Class in Archaeology) from the University of Sydney. Balazs Hansel has a Masters (History) from the University of Szeged in addition to Masters (Archaeology and Museum Studies) from the University of Szeged.

This HAA has been prepared with reference to the following guidelines and documents:

- *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'* (NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) (2009).
- *Assessing Heritage Significance* (NSW Heritage Manual 2) (NSW Heritage Office 2001).
- *Historical Archaeology Code of Practice* (Heritage Council of NSW 2006).
- *The Rocks Heritage Management Plan* (SHFA, 2010).
- *The Rocks and Millers Point Archaeological Management Plan*.
- *The Sydney Development Control Plan* (2012).
- The philosophy and process adopted is that guided by the Australia ICOMOS *Burra Charter* 2013.

1.5. LIMITATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report is limited to a presentation and analysis of potential impacts on the historical archaeological (non-Aboriginal) potential only. The assessment of archaeological potential is limited specifically to the subject area as identified by the red polygon in Figure 2.

No intrusive archaeological methods including archaeological test excavation have been applied for the purposes of this report.

Urbis would like to acknowledge the contribution of Wayne Johnson from Place Management NSW in providing additional documentation to supplement this report.

2. STATUTORY CONTEXT

2.1. NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

In 2004, a new Commonwealth heritage management system was introduced under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The National Heritage List (NHL) was established to protect places that have outstanding value to the nation. The Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL) was established to protect items and places owned or managed by Commonwealth agencies. The Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPC) is responsible for the implementation of national policy, programs and legislation to protect and conserve Australia's environment and heritage and to promote Australian arts and culture. Approval from the Minister is required for controlled actions which will have a significant impact on items and places included on the NHL or CHL.

The subject area is not included on the NHL or the CHL, and no historic heritage items in or within the vicinity of the subject area are listed on the NHL or the CHL.

2.2. STATE LEGISLATION

2.2.1. NSW Heritage Act 1977

The NSW Heritage Act 1977 (the Heritage Act) provides protection to items of environmental heritage in NSW. This includes places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects and precincts identified as significant based on historical, social, aesthetic, scientific, archaeological, architectural, cultural or natural values. State significant items are listed on the NSW State Heritage Register (SHR) and are given automatic protection under the Heritage Act against any activities that may damage an item or affect its heritage significance.

State Heritage Register

The Heritage Act is administered by the Office of Environment and Heritage. The purpose of the Heritage Act 1977 is to ensure cultural heritage in NSW is adequately identified and conserved. Items of significance to the State of NSW are listed on the NSW State Heritage Register (SHR) under Section 60 of the Act.

Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register

The Heritage Act also requires government agencies to identify and manage heritage assets in their ownership and control. Under Section 170 of the Heritage Act, Government agencies must keep a register which includes all local and State listed items or items which may be subject to an interim heritage order that are owned, occupied or managed by that Government body. Under Section 170A of the Heritage Act all government agencies must also ensure that items entered on its register are maintained with due diligence in accordance with State Owned Heritage Management Principles.

Historical Archaeology

Under Section 57(1) of the Heritage Act Heritage Council approval is required to move, damage, or destroy a relic listed in the State Heritage Register, or to excavate or disturb land which is listed on the SHR and there is reasonable knowledge or likelihood of relics being disturbed. The Act defines a 'relic' as:

Any deposit, object or material evidence

(a) which relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being an Aboriginal settlement, and;

(b) which is 50 or more years old. A Section 60 application is required to disturb relics on an SHR listed site.

Under section 139 of the *Heritage Act*, an excavation permit is required to disturb or excavate land *"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".* This section of the Heritage Act identifies provisions for items /relics outside of those on the State Heritage Register or subject to an Interim Heritage Order (IHO).

As the Sirius site is not listed under the Heritage Act 1977, a section 139 permit will be required should the following assessment identify potential historical archaeological resources across the site.

2.2.2. The Australian ICOMOS Burra Charter

While not a statutory document, the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (the Burra Charter) sets a standard of practice for those who provide advice, make decisions about, or undertake works to places of cultural significance including owners, managers, and custodians. The Burra Charter provides specific guidance for physical and procedural actions that should occur in relation to significant places, regardless of their legislative listing. The Burra Charter sets out a number of conservation principles for heritage places which are relevant to the project including use, setting, conservation, management and knowledge.

2.3. HERITAGE CONTEXT

The subject area is not listed under the City of Sydney Local Environmental Plan (LEP) or the State Heritage Register (SHR). The subject area is included in The Rocks Conservation Area, S.170 listing database No. 4500458.

The subject area is in the vicinity of a number of heritage listed items, detailed in **Table 2** below.

Table 2- Heritage Listings in the Vicinity

Item Name	Listing	Item Number
Sydney Harbour Bridge approaches group including pylons, pedestrian stairs and access roads.	LEP	I539
Millers Point/Dawes Point Heritage Conservation Area (HCA)	LEP	C35
Mercantile Hotel	SHR	5053175
Terraces	SHR	5053225
Avery Terrace	SHR	5053144
Playfair's Terrace	SHR	5053186
Playfair Street Terraces	SHR	5053185
Argyle Stores	SHR	5053139
Glenmore Hotel	SHR	5053165
Merchants House	SHR	5053176
Union Bond Store (former), Westpac Bank	SHR	5053229
Old Sydney Holiday Inn	SHR	5053182
Metcalfe Bond Stores	SHR	5053177

Additionally, while not in the direct vicinity, the Sirius Building is in proximity to the Nationally listed Sydney Harbour Bridge. The subject area is also within the visual buffer zone of the Sydney Harbour Bridge to the Sydney Opera House, which is a World Heritage site.

2.3.1. City of Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012

Clause 5.10 of Part 5 of the Sydney Local Environmental Plan (LEP) outlines the heritage conservation principles for archaeological sites and relics for the City of Sydney, including:

> ***(2) Requirement for consent***
> *Development consent is required for any of the following*

(a) 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,

(7) Archaeological sites

The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause to the carrying out of development on 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)

(a) notify the Heritage Council of its intention to grant consent, and
(b) take into consideration any response received from the Heritage Council within 28 days after the notice is sent.

The subject area is in the vicinity of a number of locally listed items, included in Table 2 above.

2.3.2. The Rocks and Millers Point Archaeological Management Plan.

The Rocks and Millers Point Archaeological Zoning Plan was prepared in 1991 by E. Higginbotham, T. Kass and M. Walker as an ongoing process of identification and assessment of the archaeological potential of the inner Sydney Region. The management plan was commissioned by The Department of Planning (now DPIE) and the Sydney Cove Authority (now the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority).

The subject area was listed in the Rocks and Millers Point Archaeological Management Plan as Item #49. The subject area condition was assessed as mostly disturbed with the basis for assessment identified as being the basements at or below Gloucester Street level, and substantially below Cumberland Street. The recommendations from the inventory were as follows:

Above ground archaeological remains – no archaeological investigation is required.

*Below ground archaeological remains – an archaeological watching brief or monitoring programme is recommended. (*Higginbotham et al, 1991).

While the subject area may be identified as having potential for '*below ground archaeological remains',* this does not take into consideration the high level of disturbance across the site due to the basement levels which exceed bedrock depth.

The area proposed for public domain works is not included in the Rocks and Millers Point Archaeological Zoning Plan. While Cumberland Street, to the west of the subject area is listed on the AZP, Gloucester Walk is not. Cumberland Street, between Argyle Street and Lower Fort Street is listed as containing partially disturbed archaeological remains, Inventory Sheet 173.

3. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The following section is based upon a detailed desktop assessment and a literature review of the history of the subject area. This is reproduced from the Heritage Impact Statement prepared by Urbis (Urbis, 2020).

3.1. AREA HISTORY

3.1.1. Pre-settlement, to 1788.

Aboriginal people have inhabited the Sydney Basin region since at least 30,735+ BP, with some potential evidence of occupation at around 40,000 years ago (JMCHM 2005a). Due to the absence of written records, it is difficult to infer what life was like prior to the arrival of European settlers. Much of our understanding of Indigenous life pre-colonisation is informed by the histories documented in the late 18th and early 19th century by European 'explorers. These histories provide a somewhat biased view, but when combined with archaeological evidence can generate an understanding of the customs, social structure, languages, beliefs and general culture of Indigenous Australians. However, the changing belief systems, social organisation and ritual are difficult to fully understand, as behaviours recorded by Europeans may have been impacted by the presence of those same Europeans (Attenbrow 2010:17).

The population of Aboriginal people around Sydney at time of first contact has been estimated at between 2000 and 3000 people, with the greater Sydney region estimated at somewhere between 4000 and 8000. The social structure of Aboriginal groups is well documented, with the division of tribes into two moieties within which intermarriage is common (Howitt, 1996). Clan descent is usually patrilineal. Marriages were not restricted to monogamous relationships, with polyamory common. An Observation from Collins acknowledges both the occurrence of polyamory and the intermarriage between different groups. Collins describes Bennelong, of the Wanegal Clan, as married to both a woman of Kameraigal descent and a woman of Gweagal descent simultaneously (Collins, 1975).

Given the early contact with Aboriginal tribes in the Sydney region, more is known about these groups than those which inhabited regional areas. In the general Sydney area, the land was occupied by the clans of the Eora tribe. The meaning of 'Eora' is unknown, but their land is documented to extend from the Hawkesbury River plateau margins in the north to Botany Nay and the Georges River in the south. There is some controversy regarding the linguistic origins of the Eora People. Some argue that the Eora People were a part of the Darug language group (Kohen, 1993). Others suggest the Eora People formed a distinct and separate language group (Hughes, 1987).The various clans of the Eora people include the Kameraigal, Wanegal, Borogegal and Gadigal. The subject area was likely within the boundary of the Wanegal tribe (Tindale, 1974; Turbett, 1989).

Prior to European colonisation and development, the lands of the Wanegal people were abundant in resources. The Kangaroo Grounds (around present day Summer Hill) were on the eastern border of their land, a border shared with the Gadigal. This was a hunting ground abundant with macropods, which could be used not only for food but also for their hides for clothing and ceremonial purposes (Ashfield & District Historical Society, 1996). The Wanegal lands were bordered by rivers and streams or coastline. Not only were the rivers and streams which provided freshwater critical to Aboriginal groups, but the edible resources of these watercourses, including the sea, were of high importance. The diet of the Wanegal people comprised primarily of fish, shellfish and other aquatic animals and was complimented by land dwelling animals including marsupials hunted in areas like the Kangaroo Grounds. The importance of aquatic resources is attested to in the archaeological record, with middens providing evidence of dietary practices located along the coast and streams.

The archaeological record also provides evidence for the exploitation of stone materials to create tools and weapons, with high density artefact scatters located across the region. At Bondi Beach, situated in the former sandhills now covered by Campbell Parade, with the centre near what is now the North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club, a large artefact scatter was registered on AHIMS in 1990. This was located in the 1900s following a series of gales which exposed thousands of stone flakes and other tools, with local knowledge suggesting the whole of the back of the beach was covered in stone artefacts accumulated over thousands of years (AHIMS site card #45-6-2169). The distinctive 'backed' points collected from this extensive scatter have since become the type-name for this artefact type, which is located across sites throughout south-eastern Australia – the Bondi Point.

The Bondi Point is the second phase in the Eastern Regional Sequence, an early typology of stone technology from Eastern New South Wales. The first phase is identified as the Capertian Phase, the second

is the Bondaian phase and the third is the Eloueran Phase. These phases were identified by McCarthy from excavations at Lapstone Creek and Capertee. McCarthy identified three distinct types of artefact distinguished by age, with Bondi Points (giving the name for Bondaian) restricted to the lower levels, and Elouera increasing in the upper levels(McCarthy, 1940a;1940b). Subsequent excavations within the Sydney Basin confirmed he sequence but also identified regional variations. These variations were condensed to include the Capertian and then Early, Middle and Late Bondaian, with Late Bondaian equivalent to Eloueran (Attenbrow, 2002).

There is abundant evidence throughout the Sydney area of contact between the local Aboriginal people and European settlers. This evidence exists in the form of contact sites, with material remains including knapped ceramic and glass, European materials in middens, and rock engravings depicting European arrival. A contact period Aboriginal archaeological deposit was recently located during the CSELR works, within the Randwick Racecourse Stabling Yards. These included flint artefacts, with scientific analysis demonstrating that this flint was sourced from the banks of the River Thames in London and transported to Sydney as ships ballast. This archaeological assemblage sheds light on the dynamic relationship between Europeans and Aboriginal groups, the differential assignment of value to material culture (flint ballast and bottle glass) and the spatial distribution of Aboriginal communities during the early years of colonisation (GML, in prep). There is also evidence for ceramic located within Aboriginal middens, for example in excavations undertaken in 1985 at Millers Point where four sherds of blue and white transfer ware were located within a midden (Lampert, 1985).

In general however, the impacts of colonisation were devastating for all Aboriginal people, but particularly for those groups living around the coast and Sydney Cove. With colonisation, Aboriginal people were forced away from their lands and the resources they relied upon. Settlement around the coast drove faunal resources further inland, reducing the traditional hunting grounds of local Aboriginal groups (Evidence, 1835). Further to this, diseases including smallpox and conflicts between local Aboriginals and colonisers decimated their population. Rather than accepting fault for this, some colonisers attributed this population decline to the introduction of alcohol and other vices (Dredge, 1845). In 1789, an epidemic believed to be smallpox and called *gal-galla* by the local Aboriginal people resulted in great population decrease (Attenbrow, 2002).

3.1.2. Early European Development

The Rocks was settled early on in the days of the colony and has been referred to as *'white Australia's most historic place'* (Kelly, M. 1997). The first locals were primarily working class, sent as convicts to the colony. While the convicts were generally displeased with their new prison, they quickly made the most of it. Amateur drawings from Francis Fowkes (a convict sent over on the first fleet) in 1788 almost three months after landing show the Rocks as a hive of activity with facilities including a hospital, a bakery, stone quarry, food store, garden plots and farms (see Figure 6).

Figure 6 – Francis Fowkes Sketch of Sydney Cove Port Jackson, 16th April 1788. Approximately location of the subject area indicated by red circle.

Source: Trove, https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-230578175/view

Life in The Rocks continued to develop with the colony. Tents and huts gave way to houses and terraces, made from Sydney sandstone quarried by convicts, bricks or wood. Maps from the early 1800s show subdivision and construction ongoing in the region (see Figure 7). However, The Rocks was neither a safe nor upstanding section of the early Sydney society. Thievery, prostitution, alcoholism and general 'depravity' were rife in the Rocks during these early years. Thievery became such an issue that in 1789 a night watch – comprised of 12 convicts – was formed to guard against crime. Commissioner J.T. Bigge said of The Rocks and the convicts who spent their time there:

> *'A town called the Rocks, a place distinguished…for the practice of every debauchery and villainy, or loiter about the street….The Rocks [is] chiefly inhabited by the most profligate and depraved part of the population'* (Bigge, 1822).

Figure 7 – C. A. Lesueur '*Plan De La Ville Sydney*, 1802

Source: Trove, https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-230976925/view

By 1807 the central part of The Rocks, including Cumberland, Gloucester and Harrington Streets, was settled, mainly with freestanding residential buildings with yards and probably gardens. The streets in the area were beginning to formalise with streets running north - south along the ridge and steep lanes and stairs connecting them.

By 1830, the primarily freestanding buildings on larger lots had given way to a greater density of attached buildings. Commercial, industrial and residential buildings shared The Rocks with people living and working in the same buildings. Pubs were a very common feature of The Rocks. Sewer lines were installed down the main streets in the 1850s, but not every house was connected. Many houses had stone cesspits, and some had nothing at all and had to share a neighbour's facilities. With the discovery of gold in 1851, immigration to the colony rose dramatically, resulting in an intense demand for housing. Developers and residents began subdividing the large old yards and built rows of small, plain terrace housing (Karskens, G. 2008).

By the 1900s, the government commenced a resumption program within The Rocks intended to clear the slums and make the area suitable for the ambitious plans surrounding it. A plan of the resumption is included as Figure 8 and demonstrates how early street grids in the area were modified, with whole streets demolished and realigned. The resumption was undertaken under the guise of preventing the spread of the bubonic plague which had begun to make impacts on the colony (*ibid).* During the early years of the 20th century the buildings in The Rocks were seen as out-dated at a time when the Government wanted to move away from terrace houses. Photos from The Rocks resumption photographic survey show an unrecognisable conglomeration of terraces and a clearly impoverished community (see Figure 9 and Figure 10).

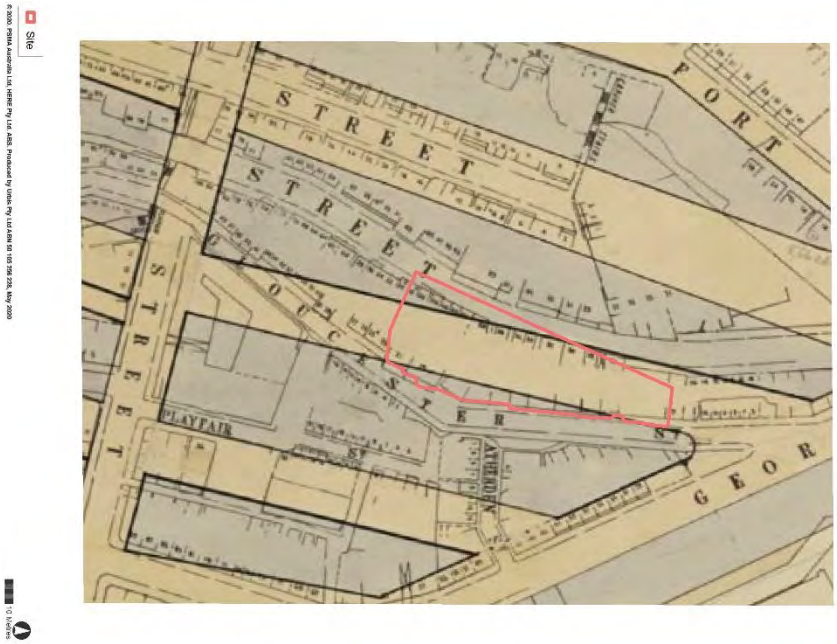


Figure 8 – Plan showing The Rocks resumption, 1901. This map shows the street alignment at this time and identifies the areas to be resumed in blue with planned new roads demarcated between these areas. While the resumptions did go ahead, the new grid layout did not.

Source: SLNSW, Digital Collection, https://collection.sl.nsw.gov.au/digital/file/pRILvm64R42O5

Figure 9 – Photo of north Gloucester Street during the Rocks Resumption photographic survey, 1901.

Source: State Record Authority of NSW, https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/image/4481_a026_000207

Figure 10 – Rear of terraces on Gloucester and Cumberland Streets, Rocks Resumption Photographic Survey, 1901. Note the difference between site level is visible at this time, with Cumberland Street higher than Gloucester Street.

Source: Trove, https://trove.nla.gov.au/version/11012028

Post-resumption, the Rocks was passed between different State government bodies including the Sydney Harbour Trust, the Maritime Services Board and the Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority. With the bypassing of traffic through the construction of the Cahill Expressway, The Rocks became a semi-forgotten enclave of Sydney. This area was dominated by lower class families and was considered to be slums by the Government. To the families that lived there, however, it was a community and they fought for their community when the Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority attempted to demolish The Rocks in the 1970s to make way for new high rise buildings (Kelly, 1997).

3.2. SUBJECT AREA HISTORY

The Sirius Building is located to the east of the Bradfield Highway, nestled between the state heritage listed road leading up to the Sydney Harbour Bridge and several state heritage listed buildings which front onto George Street. For the purposes of this assessment this area is referred to as the Gloucester Walk precinct, and encompasses the area bound by Argyle, Cumberland and George Street, with Gloucester Walk running down the centre.

3.2.1. Early settlement, 1788-1880

The Rocks was one of the first places in Sydney to be settled. The Gloucester Walk Precinct is no exception to this rule. In the 1845 Sheilds Map of Sydney shows this precinct as containing, amongst a number of other structures, the original Customs House (see Figure 11). The original Customs House occupied the eastern portion of the buildings now known as the Argyle Stores. This was used as Customs House from 1830 until 1850. The location of the original Customs House, should it be here, was believed to also be the location of or near where the landing and official flag of the First Fleet first took place (Selfe, 1902). Following the formalisation of Circular Quay, Customs House moved to its new home in Circular Quay. The Argyle Stores continued to be used as commercial stores and have historic associations with figures such as John Piper, Mary Reiby, Fredrick Unwin, Samuel Terry and the Tooth brothers (SHR Inventory Sheet). The subject area itself, however, remained largely vacant at this time, with the exception of some terrace house structures.

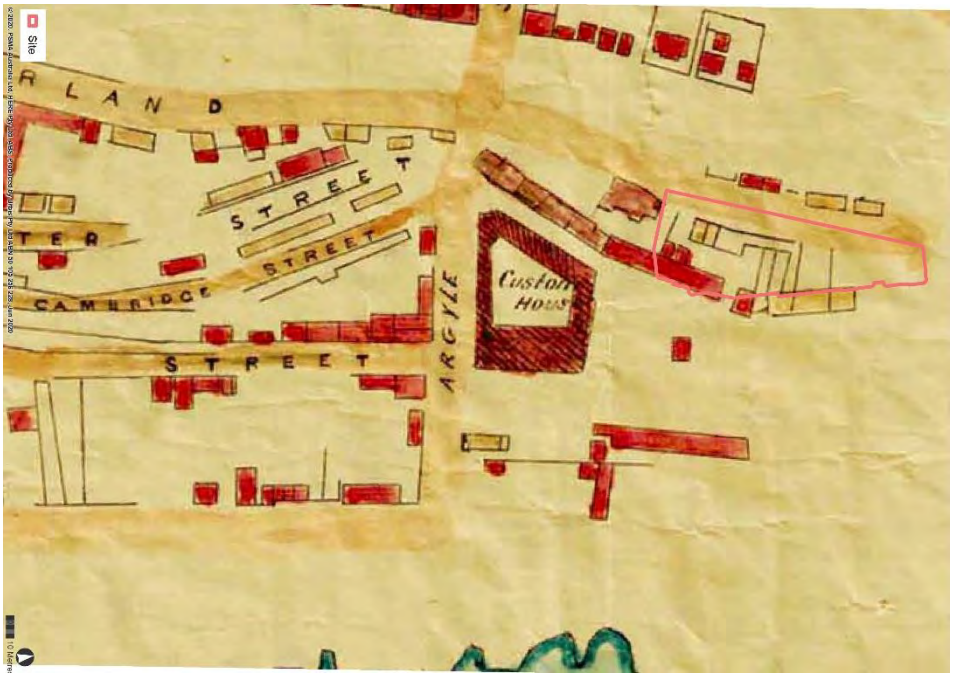


Figure 11 – Sheilds Map of Sydney, 1845, with subject area indicated by pink polygon.

Source: City of Sydney Archives.

3.2.2. Early development, 1880-1900s.

In the early 1800s, while settlement and development took place around it, the land upon which the Sirius Building currently resides remained primarily vacant, with only a few structures present to the south (see Figure 12). As The Rocks continued to develop and grow, the subject area was subdivided and developed. By 1880, the subject area was heavily subdivided and included a number of terrace houses and buildings (see Figure 13). Terrace houses in this area generally fronted onto Cumberland Street with rear entrances to Gloucester Street. Evidence along the ridgeline suggests that, from as early as 1820, sandstone was quarried along the ridgeline, with properties fronting Gloucester Street (on its former alignment) and Cumberland Street divided (comment from Place Management NSW, 2021). This is evidenced in Figure 10 above, where the gardens of Cumberland Street and Gloucester Street properties are not aligned.

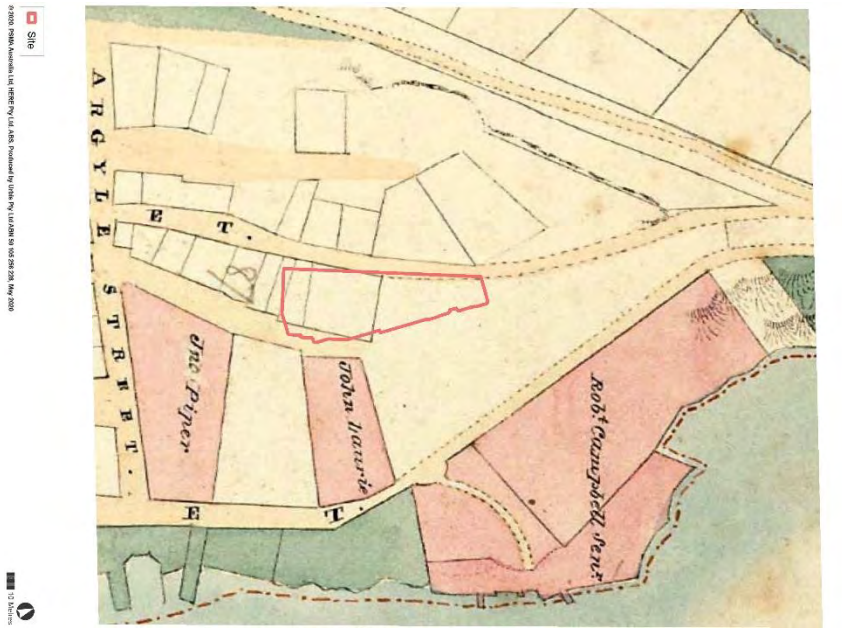


Figure 12 – Parish of St Philip Parish Map, 1831. The subject area is vacant a this time

Source: HLRV,

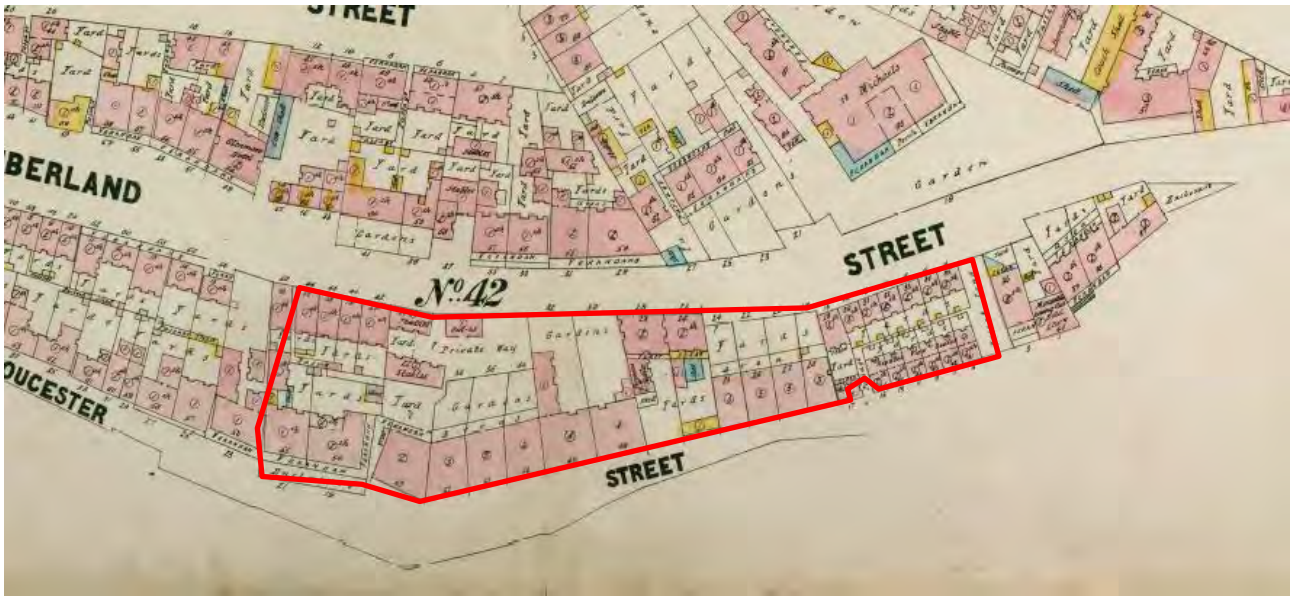


Figure 13- Doves Plan of Sydney, 1880. As demonstrated in this figure, by 880 development had taken place within the subject area including the construciton of a number of terraces, approximate location of subject area in red.

Source: City of Sydney Archives

3.2.3. Slums and the resumption program, 1900-1914

The Rocks decayed into slums over the years owing to the rapid development and diverse mix of residents. In the 1900s, plague began to threaten Sydney on both a public health and economic scale. The Rocks were seen as a hotbed of the bubonic plague, with one of the first deaths from the plague being Arthur Paine, a carter who worked in the area. The fear of plague was rampant across Sydney. Journalists fuelled this fear and politicians capitalised upon it for their own agendas, which led them to look at The Rocks and Millers Point (Kelly, 1997). The Rocks were quarantined along with Darling Harbour, and the residents given the task of cleansing the area. In 1902, the Sydney Harbour Trust was formed and headed by R. P. Hickson, and Hickson called for the reformation of the area. Resultingly, The Rocks were resumed, with the government purchasing approximately 900 properties as well as wharves, bond stores, factories, pubs, workshops and offices (Kelly, 1997). The slums were cleared, and The Rocks began to be redeveloped.

Photographs from this time show substantial buildings fronting Gloucester Street (now Gloucester Walk) in 1901, prior to the slum clearance.

Figure 14 – Gloucester Street, looking north towards the harbour. Location of the Sirius building to the left of the frame, with substantial buildings present.

Source: Supplied by Wayne Johnson, PMNSW, 2021.

Figure 15 – Gloucester Street, looking south. Site of Sirius and adjacent properties to the right of frame.

Source: Supplied by Wayne Johnson, PMNSW, 2021.

Figure 16 – Gloucester Street (northern end), approx. 1901 looking south. Location of the Sirius building to the right of the frame, with substantial buildings present.

Source: State Records NSW, 4481)a026_000207

3.2.4. Public Works Offices, 1914-1960s.

From 1914 the site was redeveloped. The NSW Housing Board erected bond stores (Rowan's Bond) and the Mercantile Shipping office. Below the shipping office was a warehouse, the roof of which carried part of the realigned Cumberland Street. The Mercantile Shipping Office occupied the northern portion of the subject area, with the Seamans Office to the south, vacant space and then the Rowans Bond Store (see Figure 17). The Housing Board was disbanded in 1924, and in 1927 the Sydney Harbour Trust was given authority over the public works buildings in The Rocks resumption area. This was then transferred to the Maritime Services Board in the 1930s.

Figure 17 – Map of the subject area, undated.

Source: Sydney Water Archeis

3.2.5. Green bans and the Sirius Building, 1960s-present

The management of government properties in The Rocks area was a contentious issue. In 1964, a survey by the Housing Commission of NSW demonstrated that best practice would be to construct flats within a 3-mile radius of the city centre to provide accommodation for low income and displaced residents (Housing Commission of NSW, 1964). Following this, in 1970 the government owned properties in The Rocks were transferred to the newly formed Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority, who proposed wide-scale demolition of buildings in The Rocks to be replaced with high-rise buildings. This led to the imposition of a Green Ban by the Builders Labourers Federation (NSWBLF) in 1971 (see Figure 18).

Figure 18 – Plan for The Rocks in the 1960s which resulted in the Green Bans. The approximate location of the subject area is indicated by the red arrow.

Source: https://millerspointcommunity.com.au/the-place/sirius/

Green Bans were imposed by the NSWBLF as a way of delaying and combatting development and insisting on social responsibility for labour. These bans fulfilled the following purpose: *'to defend open spaces from various kinds of development; to protect existing housing stock from demolition intended to make way for freeways or high-rise development; and to preserve older-style buildings from replacement by office-blocks or shopping precincts'* (Burgmann & Burgmann, 2011). The movement was headed up by three union leaders, Jack Mundey, Joe Owens and Bob Pringle. The Green Ban on the Rocks, which lasted from 1971 to 1975, is seen as influential in the maintaining of a number of heritage buildings and the character of the area (*Ibid).* One of the objections of the NSWBLF was a proposed East Rocks Car Park, an eight storey carpark to be constructed in the area surrounding or including the subject site (Docomomo). The NSWBLF also took exception to what they saw as an exclusion of the low-income inhabitants of The Rocks area. This was resolved with the intervention of the Housing Commission, who stepped in to provide assistance to pensioners and existing residents who qualified. The Green Ban was lifted in The Rocks in 1975 to allow for the construction of a social housing apartment block, known as the Sirius Apartments (named after the ship which formed part of the First Fleet).

The construction of the Sirius Building saw the demolition of the existing buildings within the subject area, including the Rowan's Bond Store and the Mercantile Shipping Office. The site was cleared by 1977, with photographs showing the cleared Sirius site (see Figure 19 and Figure 20). In clearing the site, photographs demonstrate that the existing structures were almost entirely demolished, and the site level was considerably lower at the time than Cumberland Street, with footings visible where the Cumberland Street pavement is now present. Following the clearing of the site, it was then bulk excavated for the existing carpark, and now the site steps up above Cumberland Street with the basement levels below.

Figure 19 – Photograph, 1977. The site upon which Sirius is constructed has been cleared, with Gloucester Walk visible in the foreground. The site is cleared with some footings of previous structures visible along Cumberland Street.

Source: Supplied by PMNSW, 2021

Figure 20– Photograph, 1977. The site upon which Sirius is constructed has been cleared, with Gloucester Walk visible in the foreground. The site is cleared with some footings of previous structures visible along Cumberland Street and there is a visible difference between the level of the site and the level of Cumberland Street.

Source: Supplied by PMNSW, 2021

The building was designed by Tao Gofers to meet the brief of both the Housing Commission and The Rocks Residents' Group (see Figure 21). In general The Sirius Building was designed to address the needs of the community and provide safe and affordable housing to elderly and low income residents in the area, while being respectful to the heritage character of the area. The building application for Sirius was submitted in 1977, and the construction was completed in 1980. Since its completion, the Sirius Building has housed numerous families, pensioners and individuals.

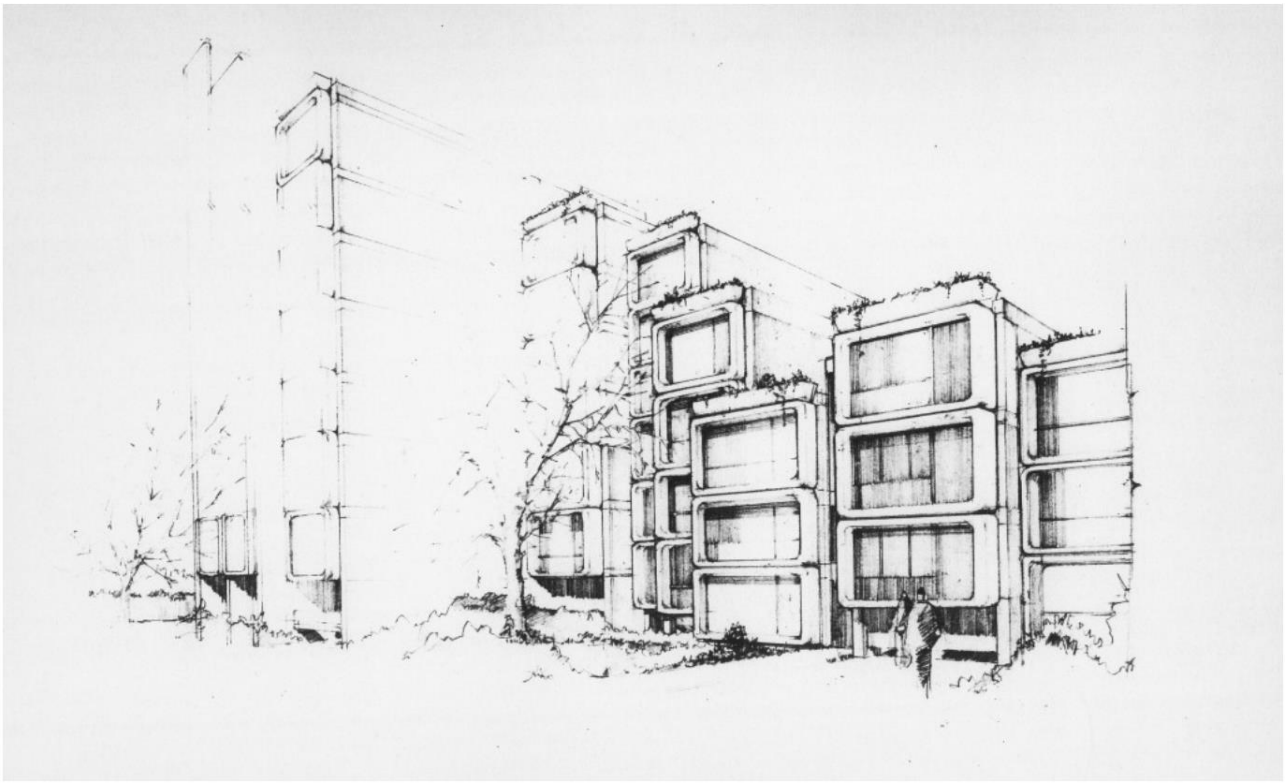


Figure 21 – Original designs of The Sirius Building.

Source: https://millerspointcommunity.com.au/the-place/sirius/

Figure 22 – Floor plan of the Sirius Building.

Source: https://millerspointcommunity.com.au/the-place/sirius/

In recent history the Sirius Building has been subject to controversy following its decommissioning as public housing and suggestions of demolition. The controversy surrounding the Sirius Building has been referred to as "*the battle over Sydney's Heart*" (Arnold, 2016). The sale of the Sirius Building was first announced in

2014 as part of a sell off of government owned assets, and the movement of residents commenced. The heritage nature of the Sirius building has been the subject of debate. In 2014 the National Trust called for Sirius to be heritage listed, and in 2016 the NSW Heritage Council voted unanimously for listing of the Sirius Building on the State Heritage Register on the basis of aesthetic and historical significance. These recommendations were rejected by the NSW Government.

3.3. NSW HISTORIC THEMES

Historical themes can be used to understand the context of a place, such as what influences have shaped that place over time. Themes help to explain why an item exists, how it has been changed and how it relates to other items linked by the theme (Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning 1996). Many heritage items relate to more than one theme. The NSW Historic Themes framework (Heritage Council of NSW 2001) includes 35 themes that relate to the history of the State, and correlate with National and local historic themes. Themes applicable to the subject area are at Table 3 below. It is noted that the activities in the broader context would fit several more of the NSW Themes, but those below are specifically targeted to the subject area.

Table 3 – Heritage themes applicable to the subject area (Phillips et al. 2015).

Australian Theme	NSW Theme	Evidence
Developing local, regional and national economies	Commerce	Mercantile Shipping Office, Rowans Bonds store.
Working	Labour	The subject area as the site which commenced the Green Bans of the 1960s.
Governing	Welfare	The Sirius building as a public housing institution.

4. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS

The subject area has not been assessed under any previous archaeological projects.

The following section of the assessment provides an analysis of the results of pertinent archaeological investigations previously conducted in the vicinity of the subject area. Figure 23 shows the location of previously carried out excavations in the vicinity of the subject area and provides context of the description of each excavation outlined below.

These assessments were selected for their proximity to the subject area and similar land use across time. Each selected assessment has involved excavation and/or monitoring programs and the identification of archaeological resources. The below table (Table 4) outlines the justification and rationale for the inclusion of each assessment within this report.

Table 4 – Rationale for the inclusion of the identified assessments.

Assessment	Justification and Rationale
Johnson, W. 1996	This assessment was selected due to its proximity to the subject area, being adjacent to the site. The site of Johnson's assessment (foundation park) had similar land use history to that of the subject area, being vacant land throughout the beginnings of settlement while The Rocks became densely populated, before eventually being developed into terrace houses and the Cleland Bond Store. This assessment identified archaeological materials in close proximity to the subject area following similar land use and therefore provides an insight into what may be present within the site, subject to disturbance levels.
Godden Mackay, 1994.	This assessment was selected due to its proximity to the subject area and its notoriety in terms of archaeology within The Rocks. This area on Cumberland street remains one of the most important and informative archaeological sites within The Rocks. The abundance of archaeological materials uncovered contribute enormously to the development of understanding surrounding life in the Rocks prior to, during, and following the resumption period. The material record from this site provides an insight into typical domestic and commercial life across this period of occupation within The Rocks and is capable of indicating the types of materials which may be present at other sites in the area.
Austral Archaeology, 1999 & 2000.	The assessments prepared by Austral across 1999 and 2000 for the Harbour View Hotel were selected due to their proximity to the subject area. These assessments were also selected due to the anticipation that sandstone bedrock would reduce the capacity for the site to bear artefactual deposits. This hypothesis is similar to that applied to the current subject area, wherein the construction on bedrock level across the majority of the site reduces the likelihood for archaeological materials to occur.
SHFA, 1988.	While not an archaeological report, the details provided by Place Management NSW (PMNSW) regarding the emergency excavation of Immigration House features including well are relevant to this assessment for their proximity to the subject area. This assessment, undertaken on the adjacent property, identified deep features

Assessment	Justification and Rationale
	including the Bunkers Hill Well where archaeological resources were not anticipated.
DSCA, 2012.	The Glenmore Hotel monitoring report has included on the basis of its proximity to the subject area. This assessment identified portions of the earlier Gloucester Street road surface and alignment below the existing basement. The alignment of Gloucester Street also ran below the current subject area. However, the Glenmore Basement does not extend to bedrock and the basement of the Sirius Building is demonstrated to do so in Section 5. Therefore, while these resources may have been present below the Glenmore Hotel, they are not anticipated to occur below the current subject area.

Figure 23 –Approximate location of previously excavated areas by Johnson, 1996; Godden Mackay, 1994; Austral 1999/2000; SHFA, 1988; and DSCA, 2012. .

4.1.1. Johnson, W. 1996. The Rocks.

Archaeological assessment of the Cleland Bond Store and surrounding terraces, adjacent to the subject area to the immediate east. This assessment was intended to interpret the remains of structure present on the site from the 1870s to 1938. Foundation Park had lay in a 'ruinous' state since the demolition of terrace houses present there during the resumption until 1972 where is was landscaped. The park was named after the structural foundations located within it. Remains within Foundation Park are considered to have a high level of historical and scientific significance as they are *'indicative of the final stage of Urbanisation in this, the earliest European settled Region of Sydney'*(Johnson, W. 1996). This assessment involved excavation, primarily to understand why the land had remained vacant for 100 years and why the terraces, which were only approx. 60 years old, were demolished in the first place. The excavation was split into different areas.

At the Cleland Bond Store, bedrock was encountered in most places within 300-400mm depth. Glass and ceramic (mid-19th century) were encountered, but these were determined to be the result of discard in the disused yard rather than constant occupation. A box drain was also identified which was associated with the south wall of the store, and which was cut into sandstone at the foot of the wall (see Figure 24).

At 16 Gloucester Street, the entire lower floor of the building was identified and excavated beneath an area that was paved. The lower floor had been covered by approximately 2m of fill consisting of brick, stone and mortar. Also present in the fill was a layer of stacked roofing iron, down pipes and guttering. The suggestion was that reusable elements were stripped out of the building prior to demolition.

At 10-14 Gloucester Street, it was identified that much of the 1930s demolition materials were removed in the early 1970s. Structural remains including dividing walls were reburied to create a lawn or else incorporated into the park plan as dwarf walls. Approximately 1-1. 5 metres of demolition material was removed from above the former ground floor level of the terraces, which predominantly consisted of sandstock brick. Other archaeological features included sub-floor deposits, stone footings, privies and a fireplace.

At 2-8 Gloucester Street, a toilet and yard drain were uncovered in the yard areas (see Figure 25). Some fill was removed from within Nos 4-8 revealing architectural features such as internal walls, doorways and fireplaces.

The archaeological excavations undertaken at the site of the Cleland Bond Store and surrounding terraces resulted in the identification of a terrain unconducive to the construction of domestic dwellings.

Figure 24 – Box drain associated with south wall of Cleland Bond Store, Johnson 1996.

Figure 25 – excavated toilet and stair from rear of No 6 Gloucester St, Johnson 1996.

4.1.2. Godden Mackay, 1994. Cumberland/Gloucester Streets Site.

The Gloucester/Cumberland Street excavations were undertaken over 20 weeks with over 400 volunteers in 1994 and aimed to investigate the archaeological resources associated with early colonial life in the rocks. This archaeological investigation was undertaken approximately 160m south of the current subject area. The assessment identified that this area had been home to a number of commercial and domestic properties as well as narrow laneways and paths, revealing a totally different view of the Rocks to the one currently extant. The resulting assemblage included ceramics, pipes, glass, structural foundations, bone and abundant other material (see Figure 26-Figure 28). This assessment is one of the largest archaeological programs undertaken within Sydney, with the area (and buildings above) now known as the Big Dig Centre and used as a resource not only to teach future generations of archaeologists about Sydney's colonial past, but also to demonstrate to members of the wider public the significance and interest inherent in archaeology (see *Figure 29*).

Figure 26 – subject area looking south during excavation, Godden Mackay 1994.

Figure 27 – Table setting pieces from the excavations, Godden Mackay 1994.

Figure 28 – clothing related artefacts from the excavations, Godden Mackay 1994.

Figure 29 –subject area post excavation in 2014.

Source: Meggan Walker, 2014.

4.1.3. Austral Archaeology, 1999 & 2000. Harbour View Hotel.

In 1999 Austral Archaeology undertook an archaeological assessment of the Harbour View Hotel, approximately 70m west of the current subject area. This assessment considered the historical use of the subject area and determined that the archaeological potential was low, and further that while significant deposits may occur the construction of the Harbour View Hotel, and previous alterations to the hotel, would likely have resulted in disturbance. Austral identified that if intact deposits were encountered, they would likely be of moderate-high significance. Austral recommended archaeological monitoring of the proposed works – including the extension of the cellar, the resurfacing of the rear lane and the removal of the eastern boundary wall.

The works went ahead in June 2000 under the observation of archaeologists from Austral Archaeology. The monitoring program involved the recording of all works associated with the removal of flooring and exposing of subfloor deposits prior to excavation of the cellar, and the demolition of the eastern boundary wall (see Figure 30 and Figure 31). The report identified the likelihood for in situ potential archaeological resources to occur as minimal due to the presence of natural sandstone directly below a minimal covering of renovation rubble principally comprising of decomposing wood dating to 1986 and a small number of bottles and glass dating to the latter period of the hotel occupation.

Figure 30 – image from monitoring program showing exposed subfloor area

Source: Austral Archaeology, 2000

Figure 31 – exposed soils behind eastern boundary wall

Source: Austral Archaeology, 2000

Artefactual material present comprised mainly of glass and other discard items. Within the laneway, the works exposed compacted soils intermixed with rootlets, gravel and red brick fragments associated with the demolition of the retaining wall. In the northern section of the laneway very little cultural material was present, consisting of the following: a complete Blue Buoys Lemonade Bottle manufactured by Tooth & Co, a metal measuring cup and a waisted lady glass (see Figure 33).

In the southern section the removal of a tree resulted in the identification of a number of artefacts from a refuse dump which the root system had grown through. This included the following: bottles dating to 1928-1929, a Pascals sweet jar base, glass fragments, potentially of gin bottles, slate, and unidentified metals. Below the root system sandstone bedrock was encountered.

Austral identified that these artefacts were primarily related to the construction and occupation of the Harbour View Hotel and that due to post depositional disturbance the chronological integrity of these materials was poor. Austral posited that the artefactual material entangled in the roots was likely the result of a dump outside the hotel dating to the 1920s, and further that there was potential that these materials were associated with the frequenting of the pub by construction workers working on the Harbour Bridge. Austral asserted that the disturbed nature of the materials removes the capacity to make this claim with any certainty, however. No materials associated with earlier occupation were identified by Austral.

Figure 32 – Root system containing artefacts

Source: Austral Archaeology, 2000.

Figure 33 – beer bottles recovered during the monitoring program.

Source: Austral Archaeology, 2000.

4.1.4. Immigration House, SHFA, 1988.

In December 1988, works to the Immigration House building resulted in the identification of archaeological resources including Bunkers Well. The site was excavated through an emergency excavation with a permit retrospectively sought. No excavation report was available; however the following details provided by Place Management NSW:

> *Cumberland St (Bunkers Hill Well) (AMP R50)*
>
> *Type of Investigation: Archaeological Excavation.*
>
> *Application for an emergency Excavation Permit was made to the Heritage Council by the Authority on 20/12/88 to excavate the contents of a well uncovered during construction of Immigration House. The Excavation Directors were Neridah Wyatt-Spratt and Wayne Johnson.*
>
> *Research Questions*
>
> *An archaeological assessment was not prepared for this site prior to its development. Due to its urgent nature, this rescue excavation took place five days after the lodgement of the Permit application, that is, Christmas Day whilst the developers were in recess.*
>
> *No research questions were formulated, the contents of the well being removed, cleaned and inventoried.*
>
> *Discussion*
>
> *At that time of the excavation it was noted that architectural remains were evident over the entire site. Photographs were taken however no further action was taken by the Authority for further investigation of these remains.*
>
> *This site contained a number of houses dating to the 1830s-40s. Two wells were actually uncovered, one located on the current western site boundary was resealed along with a time capsule. The other well (depth 1.4 metres) was located in what became the lift well of the new building. The deposit was excavated, and subject to artefact analysis in 1991. Generally the artefacts dated to the period pre-c1845. In 1989 the leather from the well was examined by an historical archaeologist, specialising in clothing, from the archaeological unit of Parcs Canada. He was of the opinion that the shoe remains were of the highest quality, indicative of potentially wealthy owners.[1] Bunkers Hill had the reputation in the first half of the 19th century as being a desirable address. At the time of the sealing of the well inhabitants of the immediate vicinity included Bishop Broughton, head of the Church in New South Wales.*
>
> *The deposit represents a single event in the disposal of rubbish in the disused well, intentionally sealed with large sandstone blocks. The deposit points to possibly wealthier inhabitants and as such is an important research tool in comparisons with other deposits of similar date. The well itself, excavated to a depth of only 1.4 metres also has possible antecedents in the shallow "well" uncovered at the Cumberland/ Gloucester Street site in 1994 in Trench E (E138) (see Godden Mackay Pty Ltd (1996): The Cumberland/ Gloucester Street Site Archaeological Investigations. Volume 3 Part 2: Trench Reports., 2.4.3.1).*
>
> *No report was prepared for the excavation. Excavation records were lodged with the Sydney Cove Authority.[2]*

This excavation was located on the adjacent property to the Sirius site, and resulted in the identification of deep and significant archaeological resources. However, while archaeological resources were uncovered on the adjacent site, it is unlikely that such materials would be recovered under Sirius, owing to the depth of excavation for basement and the presence of sandstone bedrock immediately underlaying modern fill, as demonstrated by geotechnical analysis (see Section 5).

4.1.5. Glenmore Hotel, DSCA, 2012

In 2012, Dominic Steele Consulting Archaeology (DCSA) prepared an archaeological monitoring and recording report following field work at the Glenmore Hotel, on the adjacent site to the Sirius building. Works to the basement of the hotel were monitored to ensure no potential archaeological resources were impacted.

The works included the removal of the basement slab and subsurface works below. Through the removal of the slab, an intact sandstone road and kerbside remains were exposed, and retained in situ. The road represents the remains of the old alignment of Gloucester Street. Following the alignment of the street as identified by the monitoring at the Glenmore Hotel, the remains of Gloucester Street would also run under the current subject area, beneath the Sirius building. However, the substantial disturbance resulting from the construction of Sirius and the basement level below the Sirius Building will likely have removed any *in situ* remains of the Gloucester Street road surface. This assessment found that any previously accumulated occupational deposits or structural remains were likely removed during the resumption period (c.1901) and/or during the hotel construction.

Figure 34 – Sandstone road fabric below basement

Source: DSCA, 2012

Figure 35 – Sandstone road fabric below basement with sandstone retaining wall.

Source: DSCA, 2012

4.1.6. Summary of Previous Archaeological Investigations in the Vicinity

In summary, previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the current subject area, with similar land use history or environmental conditions, have identified various levels of archaeological potential and types of archaeological resources. Figure 23 provides the physical relationship between the previously excavated areas and the current subject area. The majority of archaeological resources from nearby excavations are indicative of the domestic settlement of the rocks with assemblages which attest to occupation and daily life including animal bone, ceramic, glass and clothing items. They also included evidence of former road surfaces and alignments.

The presence of intact terrace footings despite the resumption and demolition of structures around The Rocks in the 1900s suggests that this resumption period was not as destructive to the material record as may be assumed. However, the Harbour View Hotel Monitoring Report (Austral Archaeology, 2000) and Glenmore Hotel Monitoring and Recording Report(DSCA, 2012). does also demonstrate that, in areas where development does extend to sandstone, archaeological potential is diminished through the removal of soils which may contain artefactual deposits, and potential archaeological resources from prior to the resumption phase may have been removed during the demolition.

The Sirius Building site is unlikely to contain archaeological resources from earlier phases of occupation due to the extensive disturbance associated with the construction of the present building. As demonstrated in previous assessments, where disturbance extends to bedrock level archaeological potential for *in situ* remains is diminished.

5. GEOTECHNICAL ANALYSIS

Geotechnical investigations of the subject area were undertaken in June 2020 by EIAustralia. The investigation was undertaken through the drilling of 11 boreholes to understand the existing subsurface conditions across the site. This including the drilling of 9 boreholes through existing footings and 2 through the existing retaining wall.

Across the site, two geological units were identified.

Unit 1 was identified as concrete slab, fill and concrete footings. Concrete pavements of between 90mm and 190mm thickness, underlain by sandy gravel and gravel fill, generally underlain by concrete footings of between 350mm and 1130mm thickness.

Unit 2 was identified as medium to high strength sandstone. Sandstone was slightly weathered to fresh, medium to high strength, fine to medium grained sandstone. Areas of core loss were observed at BH9, inferred to indicate the presence of extremely weathered zones and seams.

Figure 36 below shows the locations of the boreholes. Discussed further in Section 5.1. The full geotechnical report is included as Appendix B.

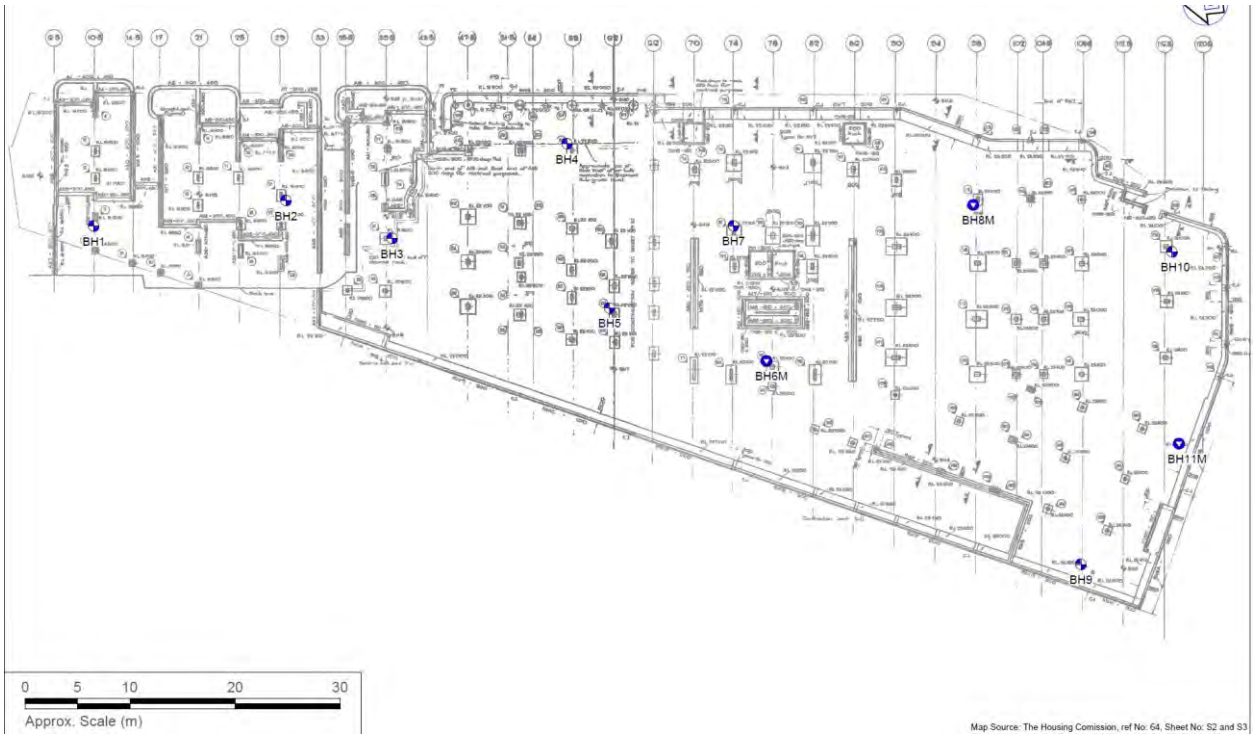


Figure 36 – Location of geotechnical boreholes.

Source: EIAustralia, 2020

5.1. THE SIRIUS BUILDING

The geotechnical investigation was centralised on the Sirius building itself, with the 11 boreholes spaced across the basement area. The geotechnical results are discussed in Table 5 below, with core diagrams shown in Figure 37-Figure 47.

Generally, the geotechnical analysis identified concrete overlaying fill, overlaying concrete and then sandstone bedrock.

Table 5 – Results of geotechnical investigations

Borehole	Depth (m)	Material and description
BH01	0.0-0.1m	Concrete: 100mm thick concrete slab.
	01.-0.65m	Fill: gravelly sand, fine to medium grained sand, grey, fine to coarse, angular to sub angular sandstone gravels, with some sandstone cobbles, moist.
	0.65-1m	Concrete: 350mm thick concrete footing
	1-4m	Sandstone: high strength, pale grey, fine to medium grained, pale grey, medium bedded, high strength, fresh.
BH02	0.0-0.09m	Concrete: 900mm thick concrete slab.
	0.09-0.4m	Fill: sandy gravel, fine to medium, angular to sub-angular gravels, grey-pale brown, moist.
	0.4-0.6m	Fill: gravelly sand, fine to coarse grained sand, grey, with some wood and metal fragments, moist.
	0.6-1.1m	Concrete: 500mm thick concrete footing .
	0.1.1-4.24m	Sandstone: high strength, pale grey, fine to medium grained, pale grey, medium bedded, high strength, fresh.
BH03	0.0-0.15m	Concrete: 150mm thick concrete slab.
	0.15-0.95m	Fill: Gravel; fine to medium, angular to sub-angular blue metal gravels, moist.
	0.95-2.08m	Concrete; 1130mm thick concrete footing.
	2.08-4.82m	Sandstone; fine to medium grained, pale grey, thinly bedded, medium strength, fresh.
BH04	0.00-0.12m	Concrete; 120mm thick concrete slab.
	0.12-0.40m	Fill: sandy gravel; fine to medium, angular to sub-angular blue metal gravels, moist, sand is fine to medium grained.
	0.40-1.25m	Concrete: 850mm thick concrete footing
	1.25-2.80m	NO CORE; 1550mm thick, inferred to be gravelly sand fill.
	2.80-3.0m	Fill: gravelly sand; fine to medium grained sand, with metal fragments.

Borehole	Depth (m)	Material and description
	3.00-3.04m	Concrete: 40mm thick concrete slab.
	3.04-3.06m	Fill: sandy gravel; fine to medium, angular to sub-angular gravels, sand is fine to medium grained.
	3.06-4m	Sandstone: fine to medium grained, pale grey, medium bedded, medium to high strength, fresh.
BH05	0.00-0.14m	Concrete: 140mm thick.
	0.14-0.39m	Fill: Gravel; fine to medium, angular to sub-angular blue metal gravels, grey, moist.
	0.39-0.84	Concrete: 450mm thick concrete footing.
	0.84-3.69	Sandstone; fine to medium grained, pale grey-pale brown, medium bedded, medium strength, slightly weathered to fresh.
BH06	0.00-0.19m	Concrete: 190mm thick concrete slab.
	0.19-0.30m	Fill: gravel; fine to medium, angular to sub-angular blue metal gravels, with some fine to medium sand, moisty.
	0.30-0.55m	Fill: gravelly sand; fine to coarse grained, pale brown, moist, gravel is fine to coarse, angular to sub-angular, sandstone gravels.
	0.55-1.24m	Concrete; 690mm thick concrete footing.
	1.24-6.82m	Sandstone: fine to medium grained pale brown, medium bedded, high strength, slightly weathered.
BH07	0.00-0.14m	Concrete: 140mm thick concrete slab
	0.14-0.80m	Fill: sandy gravel; fine to medium grained, angular to sub-angular blue metal gravels, with medium fragments, moist, sand is fine to medium grained.
	0.80-1.48m	Concrete; 680mm thick concrete footing
	1.48-4.90m	Sandstone; fine to medium grained, pale grey, medium bedded, high strength, fresh.
BH08	0.00-0.15m	Concrete; 150mm concrete slab.

Borehole	Depth (m)	Material and description
BH09	0.15-0.49m	Fill: gravell fine to medium, angular to sub-angular blue metal gravels, with some sand, brick and sandstone gragments, moist.
	0.49-1.23m	Concrete: 740mm thick concrete footing.
	1.23-6.45m	Sandstone: pale grey-pale brown, medium bedded, medium strength, slightly weathered.
	0.00-0.15m	Concrete: 150mm thick concrete slab.
	0.15-0.27m	Fill: gravel; fine to medium, angular to sub-angular blue metal gravels, with some fine-medium grained sand, moist.
	0.27-8.20m	Sandstone: fine to medium grained, pale brown, medium bedded, medium strength, slightly weathered. Varying point of core loss – determined to be gaps in sandstone bedrock.
BH10	0.00-0.15m	Concrete: 150mm thick concrete slab.
	0.15-0.90m	Fill: sandy gravel; pale borwn fine to coarse sandstone gravels, with concrete fragments and sandstone cobbles, moist, sand is fine to medium grained.
	0.90-7.15m	Sandstone; fine to medium grained, pale brown to red brown, medium bedded, medium strength, slightly weathered
BH11	0.00-0.16m	Concrete; 160mm thick concrete slab.
	0.16-0.26m	Fill: Gravel' fine to medium, angular to sub-angular blue metal gravels, moist.
	2.6-8.47m	Sandstone: fine to medium grained, pale brown to red brown, medium bedded, medium strength, slightly weathered

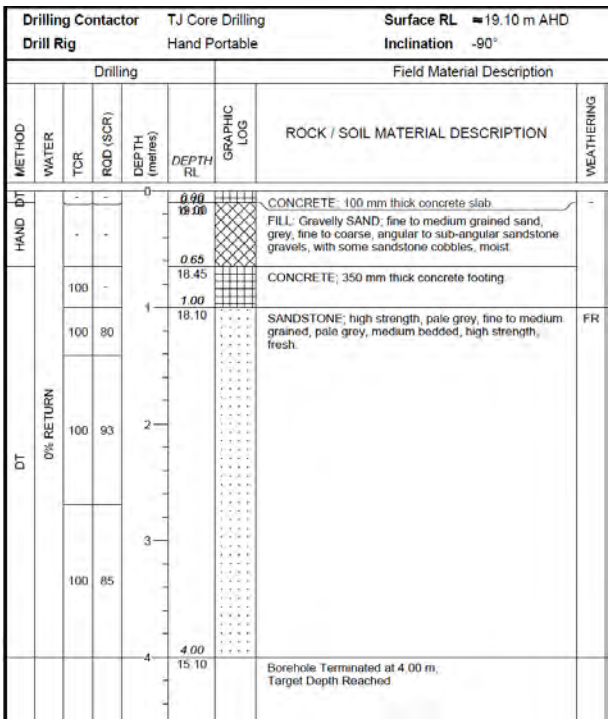


Figure 37 – Borehole BH1 Log

Source: EIAustralia

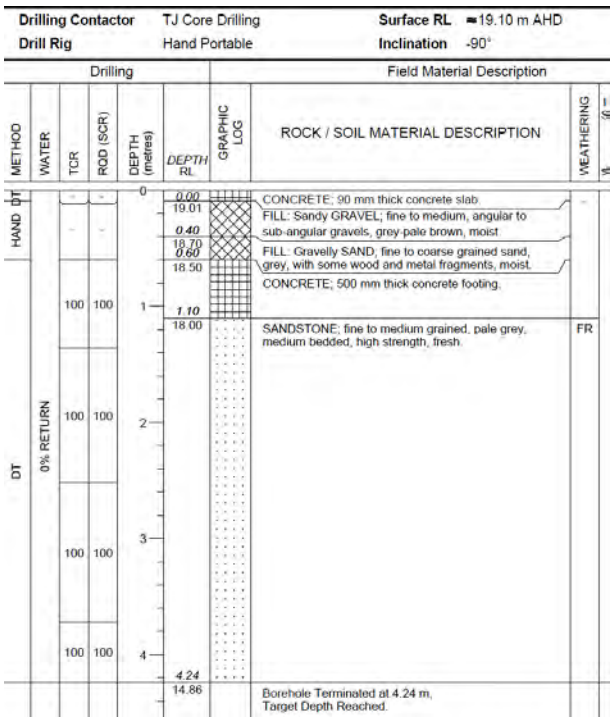


Figure 38 – Borehole BH2 Log

Source: EIAustralia

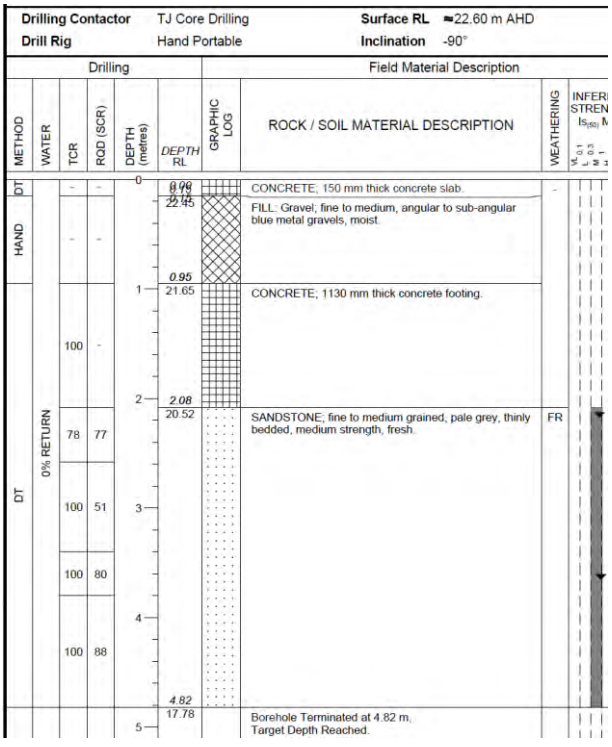


Figure 39 – Borehole BH3 Log

Source: EIAustralia

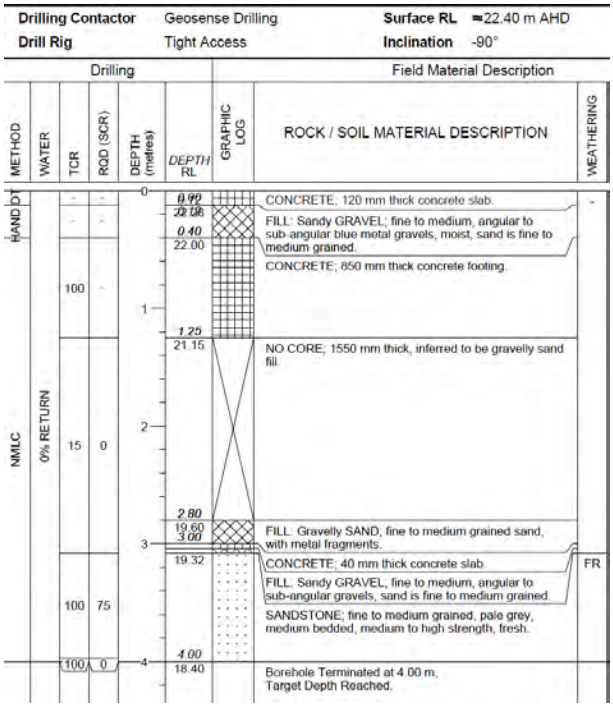


Figure 40 – Borehole BH4 Log

Source: EIAustralia

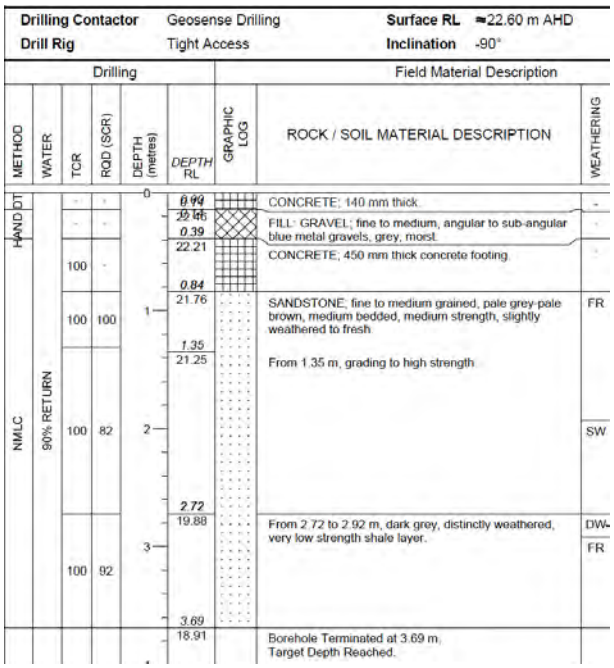


Figure 41 – Borehole BH5 Log

Source: ElAustralia

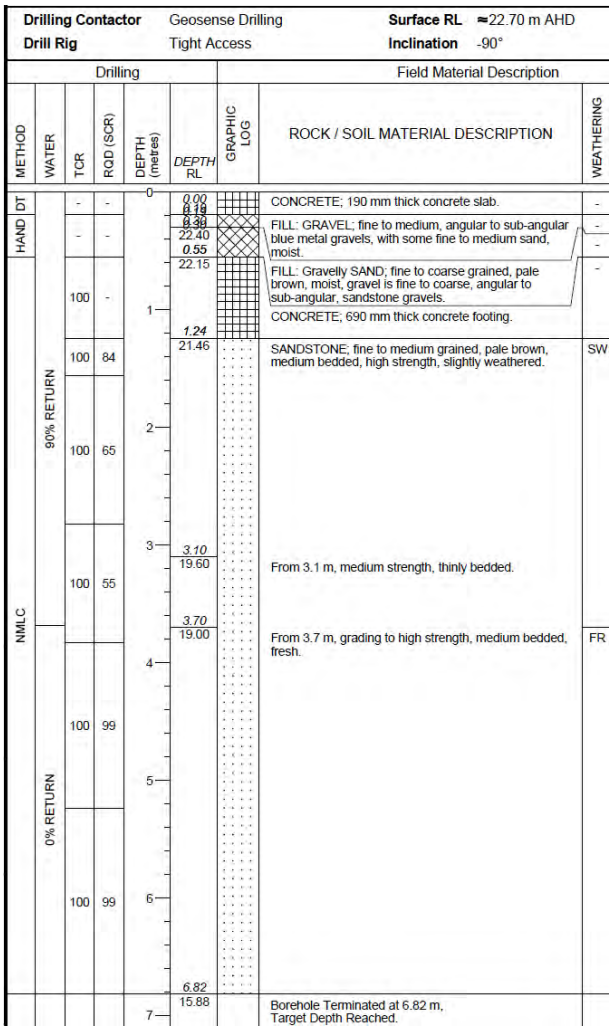


Figure 42 – Borehole BH6 Log

Source: ElAustralia

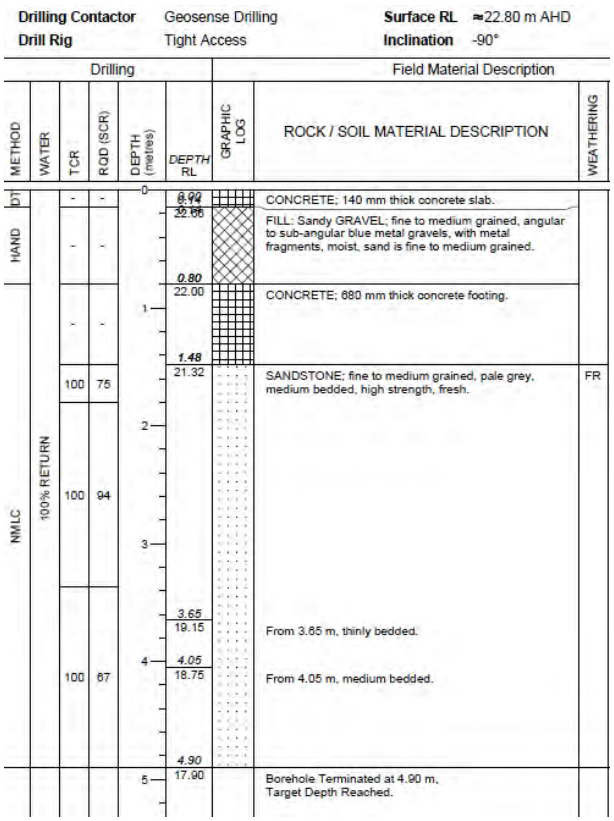


Figure 43 – Borehole BH7 Log

Source: EIAustralia

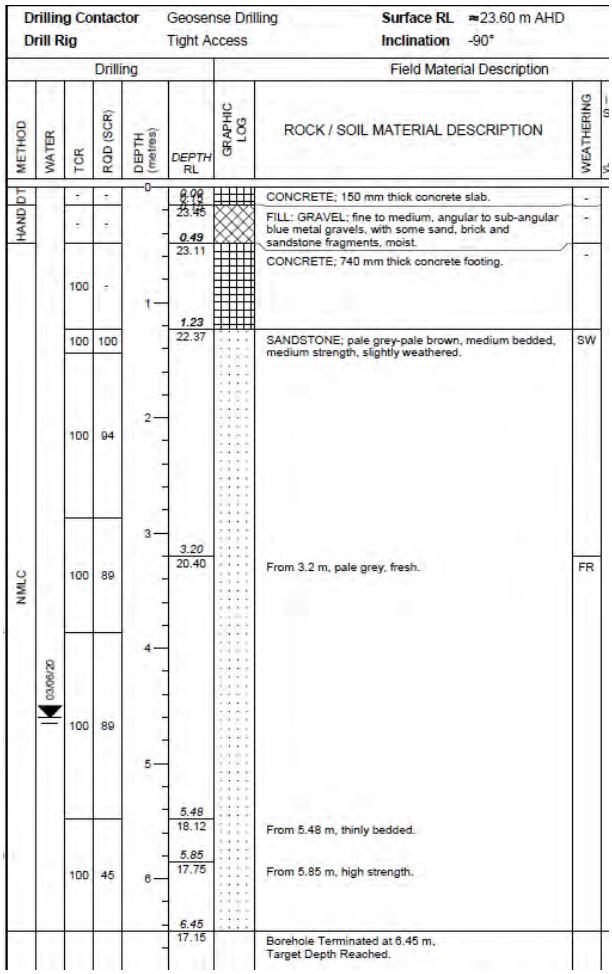


Figure 44 – Borehole BH8 Log

Source: EIAustralia

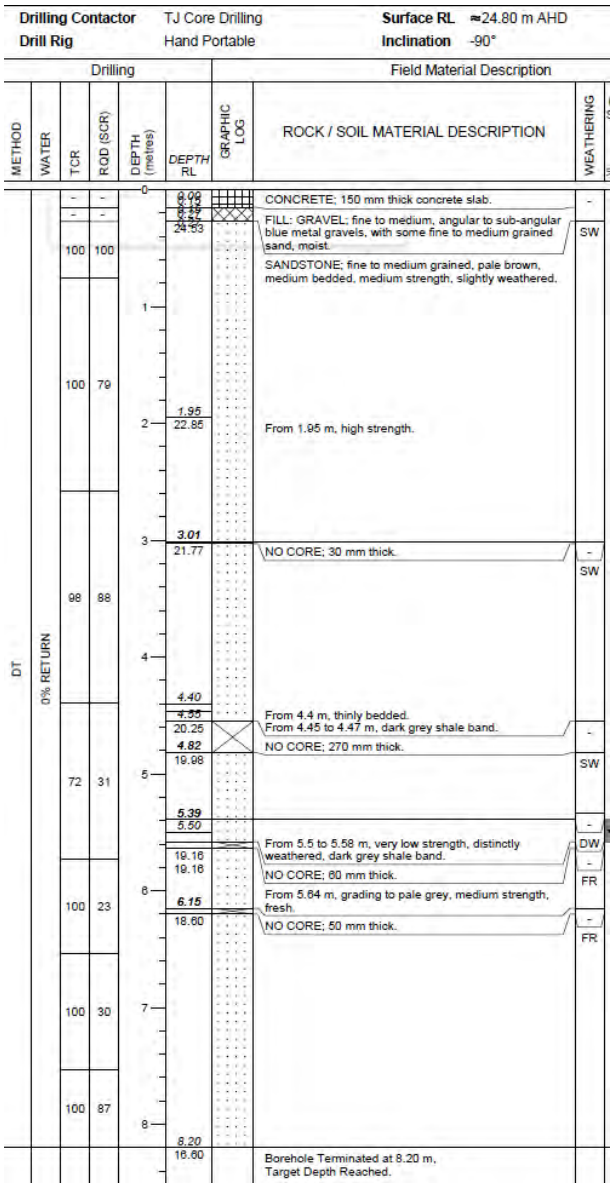


Figure 45 – Borehole BH9 Log

Source: EIAustralia

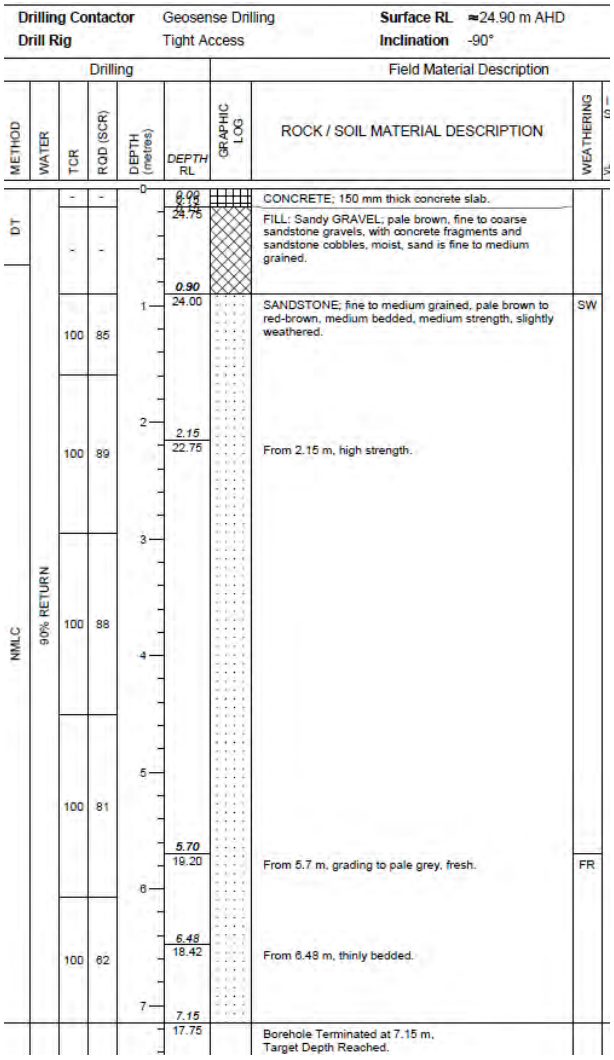


Figure 46 – Borehole BH10 Log

Source: EIAustralia

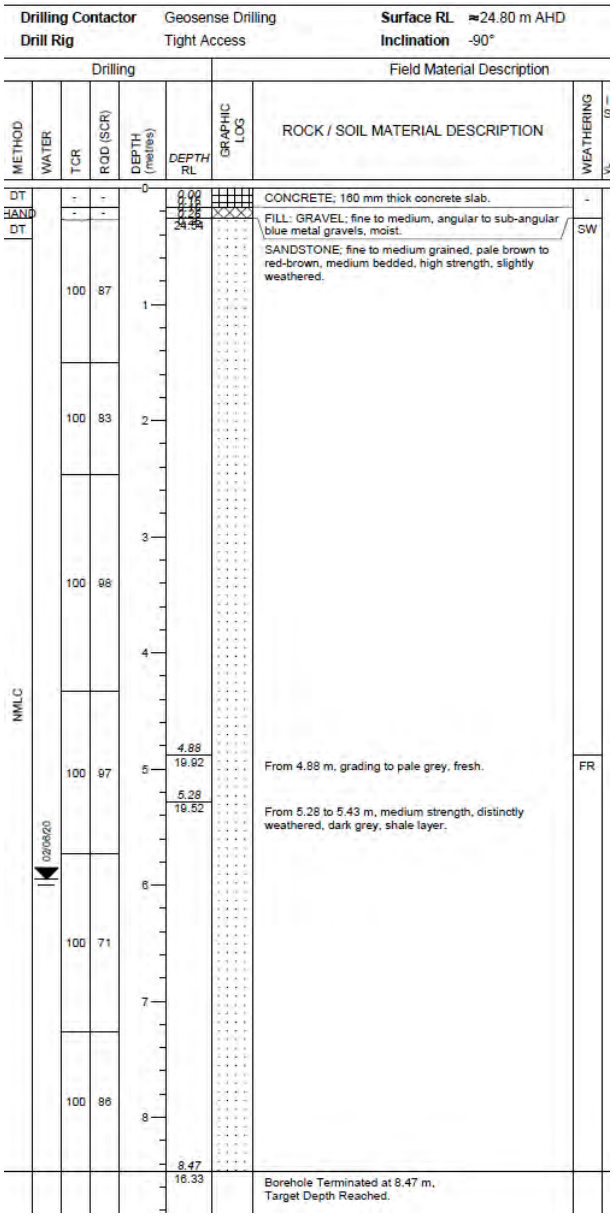


Figure 47 – Borehole BH11 Log

Source: EIAustralia

5.2. GLOUCESTER WALK

As discussed in Section 1.3, the proposal involves public domain works to Gloucester Walk. This is to the east of the site. The geotechnical investigation described this Gloucester Walk area as follows:

> *Gloucester Walk, a public pedestrian walkway, followed by a sandstone block retaining wall located above a vertical cut face, of approximately 10m to 15m height. The bedrock exposed over the cut face is characterised as slightly weathered, massive sandstone of at least medium strength containing sub-horizontal bedding defects. The retaining wall and vertical cut was followed by properties No.25 to 41 George Street, No.3 and 4 Atherden Street and No. 5, 13 and 19A Playfair Street, consisting of one to three storey brick terrace buildings, (EIAustralia, 2020)*

As suggested by this description, Gloucester Walk is primarily over bedrock sandstone as visible from the cliff face. However, no geotechnical analysis to confirm the subsurface conditions below Gloucester Walk have been undertaken.

5.3. SUMMARY

The geotechnical investigation across the subject area has identified that the subsurface conditions below the Sirius building are not conducive to the retention of potential archaeological resources.

Geotechnical investigation demonstrates that the existing concrete flooring and footings overwhelmingly overlay a small section of fill which then overlays concrete and sandstone bedrock. The fill layers are anticipated to be modern and imported fill with construction/demolition debris throughout, given the presence of concrete below and the inclusions within the fill such as blue metal gravels. As such it can be determined that the construction of the Sirius building removed the potential for archaeological resources to be retained *in situ* across the building footprint. Therefore, no significant potential archaeological resources are anticipated to occur below the Sirius building.

Geotechnical analysis has not been undertaken at Gloucester Walk. However, it has been observed that Gloucester Walk is likely also on bedrock due to the presence of sandstone visible through the vertical cut and drop to George Street properties.

6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

Historical archaeological potential is defined as:

> *The degree of physical evidence present on an archaeological site, usually assessed on the basis of physical evaluation and historical research* (Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning 1996).

Archaeological research potential of a site is the extent to which further study of relics likely to be found is expected to contribute to improved knowledge about NSW history which is not demonstrated by other sites, archaeological resources or available historical evidence. The potential for archaeological relics to survive in a particular place is significantly affected by later activities that may have caused ground disturbance. These processes include the physical development of the site (for example, phases of building construction) and the activities that occurred there. The archaeological potential of the subject area is assessed based on the background information presented in Section 3, and graded as per:

- **Nil Potential**: the land use history demonstrates that high levels of ground disturbance have occurred that would have completely destroyed any archaeological remains. Alternatively, archaeological excavation has already occurred, and removed any potential resource;
- **Low Potential**: the land use history suggests limited development or use, or there is likely to be quite high impacts in these areas, however deeper sub-surface features such as wells, cesspits and their artefact bearing deposits may survive;
- **Moderate Potential**: the land use history suggests limited phases of low to moderate development intensity, or that there are impacts in the area. A variety of archaeological remains is likely to survive, including building footings and shallower remains, as well as deeper sub-surface features;
- **High Potential**: substantially intact archaeological deposits could survive in these areas.

The potential for archaeological remains or ‘relics’ to survive in a particular place is significantly affected by land use activities that may have caused ground disturbance. These processes include the physical development of the site (for example, phases of building construction) and the activities that occurred there. The following definitions are used to consider the levels of disturbance:

- **Low Disturbance**: the area or feature has been subject to activities that may have had a minor effect on the integrity and survival of archaeological remains;
- **Moderate Disturbance**: the area or feature has been subject to activities that may have affected the integrity and survival of archaeological remains. Archaeological evidence may be present, however it may be disturbed;
- **High Disturbance**: the area or feature has been subject to activities that would have had a major effect on the integrity and survival or archaeological remains. Archaeological evidence may be greatly disturbed or destroyed.

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6.1. ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The below table presents a summary of potential archaeological resource and condition of remains within the subject area.

Table 6 – Assessment of Archaeological Potential

Phase	Potential archaeological resource	Integrity of archaeological resource	Potential	Significance
Early Settlement, 1788-1880	Rubbish dumps, discard items, road surfaces.	The subject area was vacant land for much of the early settlement period, while intense development relating to the establishment of the colony went on around it. There is some potential for archaeological materials in the form of rubbish dumps of discard items to occur associated with neighbouring properties including Customs House. However, subsequent development across the subject area will likely have removed any archaeological materials from this period. Within the public domain works area, there is some potential for early road surface and paving o occur below the present day road and pavement surfaces. This may have been disturbed by other works relating to public infrastructure in these areas.	Low	High/State – if intact archaeological deposits from this phase of occupation are encountered, they are anticipated to be of state significance due to their association with convicts and early settlement.
Early development, 1880-1900s	Structural remains, rubbish dumps, discard items, road and pavement surfaces.	The subject area was developed prior to 1880, with historic maps from this period identifying that by this time a series of terraces had been constructed. Archaeological materials including the structural remains of these terraces along with associated domestic deposits including rubbish dumps and discard items may occur, however this is considered unlikely due to the demolition phase and the subsequent	Low	High/State – if intact archaeological deposits from this phase of occupation are encountered, they are anticipated to be of state significance due to their association with convicts and early settlement, as well as of local significance due to their association with the

Phase	Potential archaeological resource	Integrity of archaeological resource	Potential	Significance
		disturbance associated with the construction of the present building. Within the public domain works area, there is some potential for early road surface and paving o occur below the present day road and pavement surfaces. This may have been disturbed by other works relating to public infrastructure in these areas.		development of The Rocks.
Slums and resumption, 1900s-1915	Rubbish dumps, demolition deposits/fill, road and pavement surfaces.	Large portions of The Rocks were resumed and demolished following outbreaks of plague and the general degradation of the suburb into slums. Archaeological materials including demolition deposits and fill and rubbish dumps associated with this period may occur, however subsequent demolition and construction phases will likely have removed this. Within the public domain works area, there is some potential for early road surface and paving o occur below the present day road and pavement surfaces. This may have been disturbed by other works relating to public infrastructure in these areas.	Low	High/local - if intact archaeological deposits from this phase of occupation are encountered, they are anticipated to be of local significance due to their association with the development of The Rocks and the early character of the area.
Public Works Offices, 1914-1960s	Structural remains, rubbish dumps, road and pavement surfaces.	During this period the subject area was home to a number of government offices. Structural remains from these buildings along with items relating to the use of these buildings may occur within the subject area. The construction of the Sirius building will likely have resulted in the entire removal of any structural remains or	Low.	High/State – should intact archaeological materials associated with the Mercantile Shipping office and other public works buildings occur, they will likely be of state significance for their association with government

Phase	Potential archaeological resource	Integrity of archaeological resource	Potential	Significance
		accumulated deposits associated with this period. Within the public domain works area, there is some potential for early road surface and paving o occur below the present day road and pavement surfaces. This may have been disturbed by other works relating to public infrastructure in these areas.		processes and facilities.
Green Bans and Sirius	Demolition rubble, rubbish dumps, discard items.	The Sirius building is largely cut into the natural sandstone bedrock of the site, likely removing archaeological materials associated with previous phases of occupation, or at the very least removing the potential to definitively attribute any accumulated deposits to a particular period. However, there is some potential for demolition rubble from previous structures, general discard and rubbish dumps from the construction phase.	Moderate.	High/State – should intact archaeological materials associated with the green bans be identified, these will likely be of high significance due to the importance of the Green Bans in the course of the history of development in NSW.

6.1.1. Statement of Archaeological Potential

Generally, the high level of disturbance associated with the cutting into sandstone bedrock for the construction of the present building (Sirius), along with continuous periods of redevelopment from c.1880-1970s have likely resulted in the removal of potential archaeological resources across the subject area.

Within the areas of the proposed public domain works, there is limited archaeological potential associated primarily with potential earlier road surfaces. This may have been disturbed by subsequent public works, however as demonstrated by nearby archaeological assessments the road surface is still present below large structures and therefore may be retained below Gloucester Walk.

7. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

7.1. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

The concept of archaeological significance is independent of archaeological potential. For example, there may be 'low potential' for certain relics to survive, but if they do, they may be assessed as being of 'high (State) significance'.

Archaeological significance has long been accepted as linked directly to archaeological (or scientific) research potential: a site or resource is said to be scientifically significant when its further study may be expected to help answer questions. Whilst the research potential of an archaeological site is an essential consideration, it is one of a number of potential heritage values which a site or 'relic' may possess. Recent changes to the *Heritage Act 1977* (Section 33(3) (a)) reflect this broader understanding of what constitutes archaeological significance by making it imperative that more than one criterion be considered.

The below assessment of archaeological significance considers the criteria, as outlined in the NSW Heritage Branch publication *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'.* Sections which are extracted verbatim from this document are italicized.

For the purposes of this assessment, significance is ranked as follows:

- **No Significance –** it is unlikely that any archaeological materials recovered will be attributed significance in accordance with the assessment criteria on a state or local level.
- **Low/Local Significance –** it is likely that archaeological materials recovered will be significant on a local level in accordance with one or more of the assessment criteria.
- **High/State Significance –** it is likely that archaeological materials recovered will be significant on a state level in accordance with one or more of the assessment criteria.

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Table 7 – significance criteria

Criterion Letter	Criterion	Definition
E	***Archaeological Research Potential***	*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'*
A, B & D	***Associations with individuals, events or groups of historical importance***	*Archaeological remains may have particular associations with individuals, groups and events which may transform mundane places or objects into significant items through the association with important historical occurrences.*
C	***Aesthetic or technical significance*** .	*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. Nevertheless, archaeological excavations which reveal highly intact and legible remains in the form of aesthetically attractive*

Criterion Letter	Criterion	Definition
		artefacts, aged and worn fabric and remnant structures, may allow both professionals and the community to connect with the past through tangible physical evidence
A, C, F & G	***Ability to demonstrate the past through archaeological remains***	*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.*

7.2. ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

7.2.1. Assessment of Significance

Table 8 – Assessment of Significance

Criterion	Discussion
Archaeological Research Potential	The site of The Sirius Building has historically been utilised for early terraces, before being resumed by the State Government in the 1900s. Following the resumptions, the site was the location of public works offices. When talks of the redevelopment of The Rocks commenced, the Sirius site was one of the first to have a green ban imposed by the Builders Labourers Federation in 1971, commencing a movement which saw the public and builders unions unite to protect Sydney's heritage from redevelopment. Thus, the site itself is significant historically as a place of housing for the poor, government offices, and public protest. However, as established above, there is nil-extremely low potential that archaeological resources reflecting these historic events will be encountered within the subject area, due to the high level of disturbance. Monitoring at the Glenmore Hotel within the same block as the Sirius Building have identified archaeological resources including the early road surface and alignment of Gloucester Street. This alignment continued under the Sirius Building; however it is unlikely similar resources will be uncovered within the Sirius Building due to the extensive disturbance being to bedrock which will likely have removed archaeological materials. The site of the public domain works has generally remained undeveloped beyond the roads present currently, with potential earlier services and road surfaces retained subsurface. This assessment has identified the potential for these resources to be present as generally **low**. If these resources do occur, they will likely be of low integrity, being disturbed and truncated through the installation of the new road, services etc. Furthermore, the earlier road surface has been identified at the neighbouring Glenmore Hotel (with the road retained *in situ*). Therefore their ability to provide information unavailable through other sources is diminished. Furthermore, the identification of the earlier road surface at the neighbouring Glenmore Hotel (with the road retained *in situ*)

Criterion	Discussion
	Generally, there is **Nil-extremely low** potential for materials with research significance on a state or local to occur within the footprint of the Sirius Building. There is **low** potential for road surface materials to occur below Gloucester Walk. This would be significant on a local level on the basis of research potential as it would contribute to the understanding of previous road alignments and surfaces, however the likely disturbance to any anticipated resources would render them less useful from a research perspective.
Associations with individuals, events or groups of historical importance	The subject area is associated with the public works offices that existed on the site during the early-mid 20th century. These were maritime services offices associated with the functioning of Sydney Harbour as a port and the management of maritime trade in the colony. The site is also associated with the green bans of the 1970s, being one of the first sites to have a ban imposed. However, the green bans did result in the deposition of any materials within the subject area. Furthermore, as identified above, it is considered highly unlikely that archaeological materials will occur across the subject area, particularly associated with these phases of occupation, due to the disturbance activities undertaken during the construction of Sirius. Generally, there is **Nil-extremely low** potential for materials with associative significance to occur within the footprint of the Sirius Building. There is **low** potential for potential archaeological resources including the earlier road surface to occur within the public domain area at Gloucester Walk. The road surface may have associative significance on a local in connection with he Rocks Resumption period and the realignment of roads following new development.
Aesthetic or technical significance.	It is generally considered to be unlikely that archaeological materials will occur across the subject area, due to the extensive disturbance experienced during the construction of the Sirius Building which extends to bedrock. However, should potential archaeological resources occur they will likely occur within the public domain area below Gloucester Walk, and are anticipated to be the former road surface and associated materials. These are not anticipated to be of aesthetic significance. There is **Nil- extremely low potential** for materials with aesthetic significance on a local or state level to occur within the Sirius building footprint. There is **low potential** for materials with aesthetic significance to occur within the public domain areas**.**
Ability to demonstrate the past through archaeological remains	As mentioned above, The Rocks was one of the first places to be developed within the settlement of Sydney, and there are a number of archaeological sites around the area which provide extensive insight into the cultural and historical development. However, the subject area is highly disturbed, with basement levels associated with the Sirius Building removing any previously accumulated deposits. Outside of the building footprint, within the public domain works area, archaeological resources may include the remains of the former Gloucester Street road surface, however this

Criterion	Discussion
	will likely be truncated and disturbed through the construction of the existing road surface and service installation. It is unlikely that any archaeological resources will be identified across the subject area which satisfy this criterion on a state or local level.

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7.3. STATEMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Should any archaeological resources occur within the subject area that can be definitively attributed to a particular phase of occupation – specifically with the early occupation at the site, the public works offices and the green bans prior to the construction of Sirius – these may be of state significance due to their connection with significant phases of development of the colony of Sydney and of The Rocks. Materials including structural remains, rubbish dumps and discard items would provide an insight into the use of the area during these periods. However, as concluded above, there is nil-extremely low potential for these resources to occur as a result of the extensive disturbance during the construction of the existing building (Sirius).

There is low potential for archaeological resources including the former road surface and alignment of Gloucester Street to be present below Gloucester Walk within the area proposed for public domain works. Should the road surface be identified it is likely to be significant on a local level for it's association with The Rocks resumption period and it's ability to provide information regarding street alignment and alteration following the resumptions. However, this significance is anticipated to be diminished through disturbance to and truncation of the road surface resulting from works including service installation.

8. SITE INSPECTION

An inspection of the site was undertaken on the 3rd of March 2020 by Andrew Crisp (Urbis Senior Heritage Consultant, Archaeologist), Meggan Walker (Urbis Heritage Consultant, Archaeologist) and Alexandria Barnier (Urbis Senior Heritage Consultant). During the site inspection all available areas were accessed and inspected including the boiler room and basement.

The site inspection identified that the construction of the Sirius building has resulted in considerable disturbance across the site, through the presence of basements levels, in some areas cut into the natural sandstone bedrock (see Figure 48-Figure 52). Sandstone blocks with degraded mortar were identified about the natural sandstone bedrock in the boiler room, the origins of which are unknown. While these blocks may represent structural remains from earlier developments, they are more likely to be functional in nature, representing a retaining wall at the edge of the Sirius development.

The public space exteriors of the subject area are primarily bricked with little green space, aligned to the brutalist architecture of the building. Personal unit outdoor spaces were also paved. As regards the interiors, the flooring consists of carpet overlaying concrete and thus it is not suitable for subfloor deposits. The site inspection thus identified that there is little potential for archaeological materials post-dating the construction of the present building due to the absence of space to deposit items.

The site inspection did not identify any areas of archaeological potential or archaeological materials, excluding the sandstone blocks potentially the remnants of previous structures, which are under investigation.

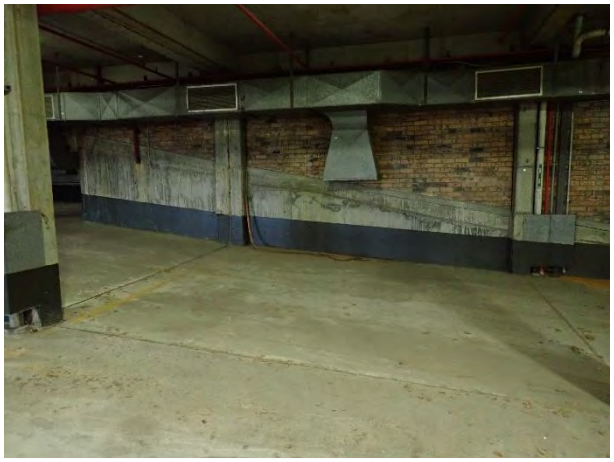

Figure 48 – basement parking level with brick wall.

Figure 49 – sandstone bedrock cut for the boiler room basement, with sandstone blocks present on top of the bedrock.

Figure 50 – sandstone bedrock cut for the boiler room basement, with sandstone blocks present on top of the bedrock.

Figure 51 –common area exterior.

Figure 52 – View of exteriors from rooftop.

Figure 53 – example of an interior room, with the flooring not suitable for the presence of underfloor deposits.

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1. CONCLUSIONS

This HAA was carried out to assess the historical archaeological potential and significance 2-60 Cumberland Street, The Rocks (the subject area).

The Sirius building occupies a site that has been subject to continuous development over the past c.100 years, including late 19th century terraces, the resumption periods and the construction of public works offices within the subject area, and finally the demolition of existing buildings and construction of Sirius. Generally, the high level of disturbance associated with the cutting into sandstone bedrock for the construction of Sirius, along with continuous periods of redevelopment from c.1880-1970s have likely resulted in the removal of all potential archaeological resources across the subject area. This is supported by geotechnical investigation, which identifies that the basement of Sirius sits on sandstone bedrock overlain by concrete slab, a small portion of imported fill, and another layer of concrete slab. The fill layers are identified as containing materials such as blue metal and concrete fragments, suggesting they are modern, imported fill introduced during the construction of the Sirius building. Consequently, the potential for archaeological resources within the footprint of the Sirius building is extremely low to nil.

Sandstone blocks with degraded mortar were identified about the natural sandstone bedrock in the boiler room, the origins of which are unknown. While these blocks may represent structural remains from earlier developments, they are more likely to be functional in nature, representing a retaining wall at the edge of the Sirius development.

There is **nil-extremely low** potential for archaeological resources to occur below the Sirius building. Should materials have been anticipated however, they would likely have been of state significance due to the their connection with significant phases of development of the colony of Sydney and The Rocks.

There is **low** potential for archaeological resources to occur below the surface of Gloucester Walk (formerly Gloucester Street). This is due to the change in alignment and generally low disturbance within this area. Archaeological resources which may occur include early forms of road surface are anticipated to be of local significance for their ability to provide information regarding changing road alignments and materials throughout the resumptions period within The Rocks. Potential archaeological resources below Gloucester Walk are anticipated to be disturbed and truncated, reducing research potential and thus significance.

Overall the archaeological potential for the entire subject area is determined to be generally low.

The proposed works are not anticipated to impact on any archaeological materials. The sandstone wall visible in the boiler room basement is not proposed to be impacted.

9.2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SIRIUS SITE

Based on the above conclusions, Urbis provides the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1 – Protection of Sandstone Wall.

1. The sandstone wall in the basement should be protected from any indirect impact from the proposed works. This should be done through fencing, covering with geotextile and sandbags or tarp during works in the vicinity.

2. An archival recording of the sandstone wall in the basement should be undertaken if any works which will directly impact the wall are proposed, with the blocks to be re-used.

Recommendation 2 – Archaeological Chance Find Procedure

In general, the HAA identified extremely low to nil potential for archaeological resources under the Sirius building. Although considered highly unlikely, should any archaeological deposits be uncovered during any site works, a chance find procedure must be implemented. The following steps must be carried out:

1. All works stop in the vicinity of the find. The find must not be moved ‘out of the way’ without following the steps below.

2. Site supervisor, or another nominated site representative must contact either the project archaeologist (if relevant) or DPIE to contact a suitably qualified archaeologist.
3. The nominated archaeologist examines the find, provides a preliminary assessment of significance, records the item and decides on appropriate management.
4. Depending on the significance of the find, reassessment of the archaeological potential of the subject area and application for relevant permit may be required, and further archaeological investigation undertaken.
5. Works in the vicinity of the find can only recommence upon relevant approvals from DPIE.

Recommendation 3 – Human Remains Procedure

In the unlikely event that human remains are uncovered during any site works, the following must be undertaken:

1. All works within the vicinity of the find immediately stop.
2. Site supervisor or other nominated manager must notify the NSW Police and DPIE.
3. The find must be assessed by the NSW Police, and may include the assistance of a qualified forensic anthropologist.
4. Management recommendations are to be formulated by the Police, DPIE and site representatives.
5. Works are not to recommence until the find has been appropriately managed.

9.3. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PUBLIC DOMAIN WORKS

Urbis recommends that the public domain works can progress subject to the consent of Place Management New South Wales, and the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1 –Archaeological Monitoring under Section 139 Excavation Exemption Permit

1. Archaeological monitoring of works within the Public Domain area should be undertaken to ensure no potential relics are harmed during the works.
2. This monitoring should be carried out under a Section 139 Excavation Exemption permit to be processed under the delegated authority of Place Management NSW rather than HNSW. The Section 139 permit will require landowner's consent; however it will not require that nomination of a specific site director.

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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This report has been prepared with due care and diligence by Urbis and the statements and opinions given by Urbis in this report are given in good faith and in the reasonable belief that they are correct and not misleading, subject to the limitations above.

APPENDIX A THE ROCKS AND MILLERS POINT ARCHAEOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN – INVENTORY SHEET

The Rocks and Millers Point Archaeological Management Plan.

Location details.

Inventory 49
Land category Allotment of land.
Section
Allotment
Title 246098. 5.
Street no 36-50
Location Cumberland Street, and Gloucester Street.
Suburb The Rocks.
Name

Above ground archaeological remains.

Site category
Original use
Description Modern.
'Sirius', block of units, concrete.

References

Below ground archaeological remains.

Assessment of condition Mostly disturbed.
Basis for assessment Basements at or below Gloucester Street level, and substantially below Cumberland Street.

Archaeological investigations.

Type of investigation
References

Historic sequence of development.

Buildings by
Historical notes

References

Management plan.

Recommendations

Above ground archaeological remains.
No archaeological investigation is required.

Below ground archaeological remains.
An archaeological watching brief or monitoring programme is recommended.

Refer to the 'Basemap ', to locate any site included in this Inventory. This plan is included in the Archaeological Management Plan, Volume 1.

A recommendation for an archaeological watching brief or monitoring programme is made for all streets not included in the Inventory.

Refer to the Archaeological Management Plan, Volume 1, for:
1. Legal obligations for the protection of archaeological resources (Chapter 6).
2. Circumstances in which archaeological investigations are required (Chapter 7).
3. The types of archaeological investigations and the procedures associated with them (Chapter 8).
4. Permits and other approvals (Chapter 9).

The Archaeological Management Plan does not affect, or remove any obligations or requirements that apply by way of legislation to The Rocks and Millers Point.

APPENDIX B GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION REPORT

refer to the Environmental Impact Statement submitted with the SSDA dated 30/10/2020 and Appendix W – Geotechnical Investigation

URBIS