



Parramatta Leagues Club
C/o APP
Level 7, 116 Miller Street
North Sydney NSW 2060

Dear Sir or Madam,

**RE: HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION LETTER REPORT FOR
1 EELS PLACE, PARRAMATTA, NEW SOUTH WALES**

This letter report serves to summarise the results of the historical archaeological test excavations undertaken by Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd (Austral) at 1 Eels Place, Parramatta, New South Wales (NSW) in accordance with the excavation methodology outlined in the Archaeological Research Design [ARD] prepared as part of a State Significant Development (SSD-8800) under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The project area consists of parts of Lot 5733, DP1225424, located within the City of Parramatta Local Government Area (LGA). The area of the archaeological testing discussed in this letter report shown in Figure 1.

The test excavations served to refine the areas of archaeological potential and therefore updated management recommendations are included in this letter report which, in conjunction with the existing Historical Archaeological Assessment (HAA) (Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd 2018) have been written to cover identified heritage values contained within the study area.

SUMMARY OF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The following historical background is quoted directly from the existing HAA for the study area (Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd 2018, pg i).

European use and development of the study area began soon after colonisation in 1788, in a desperate need to grow food and supplement dwindling supplies. What is now the study area formed part of the government farm and was quickly brought into production for the growing of crops. Success in grain production encouraged the development of a local flour milling industry. Several government mills were erected on the Parramatta River during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, including one situated to the west of the study area. This was a substantial industrial site constructed over 1803-1804 and included a three storey sandstone water mill, along with races, dams and other infrastructure. The mill remained in operation until 1820.

Remaining in public ownership, the land was formalised as part of the Vice Regal Domain during the early nineteenth century. Gates were established at key locations to control entry into the property. These gates also had gatehouses, where the gatekeeper would reside and provide a level of security and supervision. Historical mapping suggests that the study area partially includes one such gatehouse dating to 1822-23. The gatehouse was constructed from pise, or mud, but included stone foundations and a brick chimney. This building was known as the "Mud Lodge" and remained in place until a new stone gatehouse was built in the early 1840s on the O'Connell Street frontage (and outside of the study area). In turn, this was replaced in 1935 by a new brick gatehouse which remains extant.

Further built development within the study area is not known to have occurred, with the place forming part of the broader Parramatta Park, an intensely used recreational space. The Parramatta Leagues Club constructed its premises on the triangular lot on the corner of O'Connell and Grose streets in 1959, with expansion of the car park containing the study area in the following decades.



As such, it was concluded in the HAA that there are varying degrees of historical archaeological potential and sensitivity within the study area relating to the location of the Mud Lodge. The archaeological remains of this structure and any associated deposits, should they be present, are considered to be of State significance. The proposed development will have a major impact across the majority of the study area, and as such, archaeological testing was recommended prior to development to confirm the presence or absence of historical archaeological material.

RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION BY OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE (NOW HERITAGE NSW) TO DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

Heritage NSW provided advice with regards to historical archaeological impacts of the proposed development on 22 February 2019. Specifically, Heritage NSW noted that:

The application...cannot currently demonstrate that archaeological resources of State significance would not be disturbed by the proposed design without archaeological testing which did not take place during the EIS preparation.

...

The results from this [testing] program should inform an updated archaeological assessment to provide a clear picture of the archaeology and to comply with the requirements of the SEARS and address the appropriate future management of the resource (DOC19/28356).

In light of the above requirements, Austral undertook archaeological test excavations in accordance with the methodology outlined in Section 11 of the HAA prepared for the project (Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd 2018, pg 59-63),

SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK

Archaeological testing work was undertaken on 13 September 2021 and 12 October 2021 by David Marcus (Excavation Director, Austral) and Dominique Bezzina (Graduate Archaeologist, Austral).

Two test trenches were excavated at right angles in an area situated near the potential location of the Mud Lodge (Figure 1). This was designed to test for any buried structural and cultural deposits relating to the mud lodge.

RESULTS OF FIELDWORK

The following sections provide the archaeological findings for each of the test trenches, followed by a summary of the fieldwork and the impacts of the findings on the archaeological potential.

The Test Trench was located in the south-eastern section of the study area and was placed on a north/south and east/west alignment (Figure 1). However, the trench location had to be moved from its intended location due to the presence of unanticipated underground services and the root zone of adjacent trees.

This trench measured approximately 10 metres in length running north/south, 7 metres east/west and 1.5 metres in width. On average, the trench identified natural clay (003) at a depth of between 200 millimetres and 250 millimetres (Figure 2 to Figure 5) with a consistent stratigraphy of between 50 millimetres to 100 millimetres of asphalt (001) overlying a compacted roadbase deposit (002) which had frequent inclusions of asbestos, including fragments pressed into the interface with the underlying clay (003).

The only archaeological feature identified during the test excavation was a burnt tree bole, potentially associated with early land clearance practices or the removal of a tree stump prior to construction of the car park. No archaeological material relating to the Mud Lodge was found during the excavation of this trench. An overview of the recorded contexts is provided in Table 1.

**Table 1 Identified stratigraphic contexts**

Context Number	Context	Description
(001)	Current Asphalt carpark (Depth: 0 - 100 mm)	Carpark
(002)	Compact Roadbase (Depth: 100-200 mm)	Compact Roadbase
(003)	Natural clay (Depth: 200-230 mm)	Light tan clay subsoil.

ARTEFACTS

No artefacts were identified during the test excavation.

UPDATED STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The results of the test excavations outlined above failed to identify any archaeological remains associated with the Mud Lodge, and confirmed that previous levels of disturbance are likely to have reduced the archaeological potential of the remainder of the study area to low.

Therefore, the study area does not meet any criteria for significance at either a State or local level.

FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

The lack of any archaeological resource means there is no requirement to outline any future management requirements or specify any requirements to mitigate against harm to the archaeological resource.

SUMMARY

In summary; no archaeological evidence relating to the Mud Lodge was identified in within the trenches. The entirety of the study area has therefore been re-zoned as having low archaeological potential. The trench contexts show that the carpark and roadbase are located on top of the natural clay and that construction of the carpark is likely to have stripped away any historical above ground deposits. Although there was the presence of a burnt tree root, it was unclear whether this was associated with previous land clearing activities or ground preparation prior to construction of the current carpark.

CONCLUSIONS

Where the original HAA and the response received from Heritage NSW identified a need to undertake archaeological testing to determine whether the proposed works would impact on archaeological material, this testing program has now been completed. The lack of archaeological remains relating to the Mud Lodge now means that it is confirmed that the development will not impact on archaeological remains of State or local significance.

The assessment of significance in the HAA revolves around the potential for archaeological remains being present which are associated with the Mud Lodge. The archaeological testing demonstrated that the study area does not contain any archaeological material. As a result, the archaeological potential has been redefined and the following recommendations apply to the project in regard to historical archaeological material.

It is recommended that:

- 1) This assessment has determined that historical archaeological relics are highly unlikely to be encountered as part of the proposed development. Further assessments or works in order to meet the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* are not required.
- 2) In the event that historical archaeological relics not assessed or anticipated by this report are found during the works, all works in the immediate vicinity are to cease immediately and Heritage NSW be notified in accordance with Section 146 of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977*. A qualified archaeologist should be contacted to assess the situation and consult with Heritage NSW regarding the most appropriate course of action.



Please do not hesitate to contact me on 0417 084 396 if you wish to discuss any aspect of this submission.

Yours faithfully,



David Marcus
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REFERENCES

Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd 2018, *Parramatta Leagues Club Hotel Development; Aboriginal Due Diligence and Historical Archaeological Assessment*.



Figure X.X - Location of test trench
 21065 - Parramatta Leagues Club, Parramatta, NSW



Figure 2 West facing post-excavation view showing the E/W trench.



Figure 3 North facing post-excavation view showing the N/S trench.



Figure 4 North facing view showing flecks of charcoal in clay (003) associated with the tree bole.



Figure 5 South facing post-excavation view of the northern end of the E/W trench.