

5.6. Description of Aboriginal Potential Archaeological Deposits

Ten areas of Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) were recorded throughout the course of the survey.

PAD's Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4, QVP, S1 and S2 are located within survey zone 1, while PAD's V1, V2 and V3 are located within survey zone 3.

No PAD's were identified in survey zones 2 or 4.

Areas of PAD are defined according to landform elements and more specifically by stable or aggrading landform elements (see section 3.2 and 4.8). Aggrading landform elements generally comprise alluvial flats and terraces, and foot slopes, while stable landscapes may be represented by any landform element.

It is important to emphasise that the study area is composed entirely of either alluvial creek flats or gently inclined slopes characterised by stable soil landscapes. In this instance the areas of PAD have been further defined according to two factors;

- The degree of land use impact; this includes the level of disturbance to the soil and natural vegetation. Areas which have undergone ground disturbance through urban development and vegetation clearance will display varying degrees of archaeological potential for the retention of intact sub surface deposits;
- Areas of PAD identified were constrained according to the area of land actually surveyed. This point is particularly relevant in areas of PAD identified in Commonwealth land in survey zone 1, where land access was restricted to within 50m of the rail corridor. Therefore, it should be noted that areas of PAD may continue outside of the survey zones defined in Figure 5.

Quakers Hill 1 (Q1)

PAD Q1 comprises an area approximately 17,045m² of alluvial terrace deposit, situated north west of a tributary of Eastern Creek (see Figure 5-5). The area is characterised as riparian woodland, dominated by the South Creek soil landscape; a landscape conducive to the retention of Archaeological material. Archaeological deposits are predicted to occur at varying depths from the ground surface along the alluvial flats as this soil type is often characterised by buried soil horizons (see section 3.2 and 4.8).

This area of PAD is set back from the creek line; a landscape position which is known to hold potential for both surface and sub surface Aboriginal sites. Sites recorded within the immediate vicinity are located within 100m of tributary creek lines and in some instances comprise extensive artefact scatters. *In situ* sub surface deposits have been identified within 200m south east of Q1 in a similar landscape context (refer to section 4.6: Sites 45-5-0358 and 45-5-2321).

Land use impacts to this area of PAD constitute historic land clearance and agricultural use and the installation of both a sewerage line and Telstra utility service. Vegetation communities within this area of PAD have been assessed with poor structural integrity (Parsons Brinckerhoff 2008), with the colonisation of many exotic species. The majority of these impacts will only have affected the integrity of top soil deposits to varying degrees and not necessarily served to remove archaeological material from the landscape. The most significant impact will be that of the installation of utility services; however this impact is linear in nature and does not apply to the area of PAD in its entirety.

There is the potential for both disturbed and undisturbed archaeological material to be present across this site.

Quakers Hill 2 (Q2)

PAD Q2 comprises an area approximately 17,900 m² of upper terrace deposit situated between the confluence of two tributary creek lines, which cross the rail corridor at Quakers Hill (see Figure 5-5). Q2 is situated adjacent to Q1, on slightly elevated ground situated above the immediate creek bank deposits. The transition from Q1 to Q2 is marked by a change in vegetation structure from riparian woodland to open woodland. Q2 is comprised of the South Creek soil landscape; a landscape conducive to the retention of Archaeological material. Archaeological deposits are predicted to occur at varying depths from the ground surface along the alluvial flats as this soil type is often characterised by buried soil horizons (see section 3.2 and 4.8).

Furthermore, this area of PAD is set back from the creek line; a landscape position which is known to hold potential for both surface and sub surface Aboriginal sites. Sites recorded within the immediate vicinity are located within 100m of tributary creek lines and in many instances along creek line confluences (refer section 4.6). *In situ* sub surface deposits have been identified within 250m south east of Q2 in a similar landscape context (refer to section 4.6: Sites 45-5-0358 and 45-5-2321).

Land use impacts to this area of PAD are similar to those outlined for Q1 and constitute historic land clearance and agricultural use and the installation of both a sewerage line and Telstra utility service. Vegetation communities within this area of PAD have been assessed with medium level structural integrity (Parsons Brinckerhoff 2008), indicating a lesser degree of disturbance than that found in Q1. The majority of these impacts will only have affected the integrity of top soil deposits to varying degrees and not necessarily served to remove archaeological material from the landscape. The most significant impact will be that of the installation of utility services; however this impact is linear in nature and does not apply to the area of PAD in its entirety.

There is the potential for both disturbed and undisturbed archaeological material to be present across this site.

Oppy Reserve (Q3)

Q3 comprises an area approximately 4134m² of alluvial terrace deposit, associated with a tributary of Eastern Creek. The PAD extends along the eastern boundary of the rail corridor, across Oppy Reserve (see Figure 5-5)

Archaeological testing conducted along approximately 19m of an access track running adjacent to the rail corridor between the Parkway Overpass and to within 4m of the first order tributary of Eastern creek which crosses the rail line at Oppy Reserve has identified the presence of numerous buried Aboriginal stone artefacts (Phil Kahn DLALC pers.comm.)(Plate 5-4). Visual inspection of this area resulted in the identification of archaeological sites QV 3 and QV4. PAD Q3 forms a natural extension to the north west of the area tested and comprises both the northern and southern creek flats of the unnamed tributary. Q3 is comprised of the South Creek soil landscape; a landscape conducive to the retention of Archaeological material. Archaeological deposits are predicted to occur at varying depths from the ground surface along the alluvial flats as this soil type is often characterised by buried soil horizons (see section 3.2 and 4.8).

Aboriginal sites have been recorded within Oppy Reserve and *in situ* sub surface deposits have been identified within 100m north east of Q3 in a similar landscape context (refer to section 4.6: Sites 45-5-0358 and 45-5-2321).

Land use impacts in the form of historic agricultural use, vegetation disturbance, urban expansion and the installation of a watermain have clearly not served to remove archaeological material from this site as numerous artefacts have been retrieved from both the top soil and sub soil immediately adjacent to the existing rail corridor and adjacent to the creek line 100m to the north east.

Quakers Hill 5 (Q4)

PAD Q4 comprises an area approximately 23,860m² and is and extends for approximately 450m along the western boundary of the rail corridor in survey zone 1 (refer Figures 5-5 and 5-6). This area of PAD is comprised of relatively intact woodland vegetation with minimal disturbance to species composition (Parsons Brinckerhoff 2008). The PAD is situated along the ridge top of a low rising hill situated above the alluvial flood plain of Eastern Creek. Soils across this PAD are dominated by the Blacktown soil landscape, which is characterised as a stable or relict landscape with minimal erosion. Although archaeological material will be confined to the biomantle (upper soil layer created mainly by organisms), the stability of this soil landscape and its position along an elevated rise above the floodplain, mean that it has the potential to contain evidence of long term Aboriginal occupation sites.

Previously recorded open camp sites 45-5-3374, 45-5-0503, 45-5-0471 and 45-5-0497 are situated within several hundred metres of Q4 along the lower slopes and flood plain of Eastern Creek and archaeological sites QV1, QV2 and associated PAD QVP (see below) are situated 60m to the north east.

Land use impacts to this area of PAD are similar to those outlined for previous PADs and constitute historic land clearance and agricultural use and the installation of utility services. Vegetation communities within this area of PAD have been assessed with a medium to good level of structural integrity (Parsons Brinckerhoff 2008), indicating minimal disturbance to the ground surface, despite historic agricultural practices. The most significant impact will be that

of the installation of utility services; however this impact is linear in nature and does not apply to the area of PAD in its entirety.

QVP

QVP comprises a gently inclined slope rising above the Eastern Creek flood plain. It is situated between PADs Q4 and S1 (see Figure 5-6). Archaeological sites QV1 and QV2 are situated within 5m of the rail corridor. These finds are associated with numerous flaked cobbles, cores and flakes, eroding down slope in a westerly direction. This site may be considered as continuous with 45-5-0503 and 45-5-0471, the latter of which comprises an extensive artefact scatter.

Soils across this PAD are dominated by the Blacktown soil landscape, which is characterised as a stable or relict landscape with minimal erosion. Although archaeological material will be confined to the biomantle, the stability of this soil landscape and its position along an elevated rise above the floodplain, mean that it has the potential to contain evidence of long term Aboriginal occupation sites. The presence of numerous artefacts eroding down slope support the potential for buried archaeological material.

Land use impacts to this area of PAD are similar to those outlined for previous PADs and constitute historic land clearance and agricultural use and the installation of utility services. Vegetation communities within this area of PAD comprise open pasture land, and ground surface disturbance is limited to localised erosion. The most significant impact will be that of the installation of utility services; however this impact is linear in nature and does not apply to the area of PAD in its entirety.

Schofields 1 (S1)

PAD S1 comprises an area of approximately 6363m² square metres extending 125m along the western boundary of the existing rail corridor along Railway Terrace, from Burdekin Road in a north westerly direction (see Figure 5-6). PAD S1, represents a similar landscape context to that of QVP, and forms a natural extension of this PAD, comprising the gently inclined north west facing slope. Vegetation comprises of open pasture land with some disturbance to the integrity of the ground surface.

Soils across this PAD are dominated by the Blacktown soil landscape, which is characterised as a stable or relict landscape with minimal erosion. Although archaeological material will be confined to the biomantle, the stability of this soil landscape and its position along an elevated rise above the floodplain, mean that it has the potential to contain evidence of long term Aboriginal occupation sites. Archaeological sites QV 1, QV 2, 45-5-0503, 45-5-0471 and 45-5-0497 are situated within several hundred metres of S1 along the lower slopes and flood plain of Eastern Creek; a similar landscape context to that of S1.

Land use impacts to this area of PAD constitute historic land clearance and agricultural use and the installation of utility services. The majority of these impacts will only have affected the integrity of top soil deposits to varying degrees and not necessarily served to remove archaeological material from the landscape. The most significant impact will be that of the installation of utility services; however this impact is linear in nature and does not apply to the area of PAD in its entirety.

There is the potential for both disturbed and undisturbed archaeological material to be present across this site.

Proposed Schofields Station (S2)

PAD S2 is approximately 16,360m² and is bound several metres to the south of Pelican Road, and to the north by Schofields Road (see Figure 5-6). This area of PAD was identified in phase 2 of this assessment.

The PAD is situated along a low rising hill situated above the alluvial flood plain of Eastern Creek. Soils across this PAD are dominated by the Blacktown soil landscape, which is characterised as a stable or relict landscape with minimal erosion. Although archaeological material will be confined to the biomantle, the stability of this soil landscape and its position along an elevated rise above the floodplain, mean that it has the potential to contain evidence of long term Aboriginal occupation sites.

Land use impacts within the vicinity of S2 are minimal. While historic land clearance and continued agricultural use of the land will have impacted the top soil to varying degrees in the vicinity of this PAD, archaeological material is commonly found below the plough zone in similar contexts to that of the study area across the Cumberland Plain.

A sub surface electricity cable cuts through PAD S2 in a south easterly direction, originating from the sub station in the northern end of the PAD. The impact of this installation is likely to have disturbed the context of any potential buried Aboriginal material, yet not removed it. The impact of this installation is linear and confined in space and does not detract from the potential for undisturbed sub surface material to be present across this site.

Melbourne Street to Victoria Street, Vineyard (V3)

PAD V3 comprises an area of 5478m² and extends along the western boundary of the rail corridor between Melbourne and Victoria Streets, 900m south east of Vineyard station. (see Figure 5-8). V3 is situated along the creek flats of a tributary to Eastern Creek and is dominated by the South Creek soil landscape, which is conducive to the retention of Archaeological material. Archaeological deposits are predicted to occur at varying depths from the ground surface along the alluvial flats as this soil type is often characterised by buried soil horizons (see section 3.2 and 4.8).

Archaeological sites are situated in similar landscape contexts along the Eastern Creek floodplain and further south along tributary creek flats at Quakers Hill and Schofields. As already stated *in situ* sub surface archaeological deposits have been documented within similar geomorphological environments within the immediate region.

Land use impacts within the vicinity of V3 are minimal. While historic land clearance and continued agricultural use of the land will have impacted the top soil to varying degrees in the vicinity of this PAD, archaeological material is commonly found below the plough zone in similar contexts to that of the study area across the Cumberland Plain. Several Telstra installations and one sewerage line cross this PAD at varying points. The impact of these services to the integrity of the PAD is linear and confined in space. Archaeological material is likely to have been disturbed, yet not removed, in these specific areas of impact.

There is the potential for undisturbed sub surface archaeological material to be present across this PAD.

Proposed Vineyard Station site (V2)

This area of PAD was identified during phase 1 of the Project. It is situated within survey zone 3.

The area of PAD identified at the proposed Vineyard Station site comprises an area of approximately 21,272 square metres, extending from the intersection of Riverstone Parade and Norwood Road to Bandon Road at the existing Vineyard Station (see Figure 5-8). A reassessment of this area (phase 3) identified two isolated finds (QV6 and QV 7) within the vicinity of this PAD. Archaeological material is predicted to occur at varying depths from the present ground surface in areas where the South Creek soil landscape predominates, and within the biomantle in areas where the Blacktown soil landscape predominates (see section 3.2 and 4.8). The South Creek soil landscape is most prominent in the vicinity of the existing Vineyard station, while the Blacktown soil predominates along the remainder of the PAD.

Land use impacts in the vicinity of V2 constitute historic land clearance and agricultural practices. An electricity easement crosses the PAD near Norwood Road, the installation of which is likely to have disturbed the integrity of any potential sub surface deposits. The impact of this easement is however confined in space.

Proposed Vineyard Station car park site (V1)

This area of PAD was identified during phase 1 of the Project. It is situated within survey zone 3.

The area of PAD identified at the proposed Vineyard Station car park sites comprise an area of approximately 11,250 square metres. The proposed site is bound to the south by Ashford Road and to the north by a private property boundary. This northern extent is situated half way between Ashford and Camberwell Roads (see Figure 5-8).

Soils across this PAD are dominated by the Blacktown soil landscape, which is characterised as a stable or relict landscape with minimal erosion. Although archaeological material will be confined to the biomantle, the stability of this soil landscape and its position along an elevated rise above the floodplain, mean that it has the potential to contain evidence of long term Aboriginal occupation sites.

Land use impacts in this area of PAD are minimal. Vegetation communities are assessed with good structural integrity, with a species complement characteristic of the pre-European equivalent (Parsons Brinkerhoff 2008). As such, ground surface disturbance has been minimal.