

2 September 2011

Mr Jim Farrell
Senior Design Manager—VAPS Project
Building Development & Maintenance
Sydney Opera House Bennelong Point
GPO Box 4274
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Our Ref: 10-0299jfc1

Re: Sydney Opera House Bennelong Stormwater Drain Diversion —Installation of Stormwater Line—Heritage Impact Statement

Dear Mr Farrell,

We refer to your request to prepare a Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) in relation to the installation of the stormwater line as part of the proposed construction works within the forecourt area of the Sydney Opera House (SOH). We understand that the HIS is required to accompany an application for S75W Modification of Major Project MP 09_0122 Bennelong Stormwater Drain Diversion.

Background

In 2010 Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd (GML) prepared three reports as part of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed works, to accompany an application to the Department of Planning for approval under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) (EP&A Act):

- Sydney Opera House Forecourt—Archaeological Management Plan and Heritage Impact Assessment, January 2010 (SOH Forecourt AAHIA);
- Sydney Opera House: Vehicle and Pedestrian Safety Project (VAPS)—Archaeological Management Plan and Heritage Impact Assessment, February 2010 (SOH VAPS AAHIA); and
- Sydney Opera House: Vehicle and Pedestrian Safety Project—Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Values, July 2010.

The SOH Forecourt AAHIA and SOH VAPS AAHIA reports were also prepared to accompany an application to the Heritage Council of NSW for excavation permits under Section 60 of the *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW).

The reports provided the assessment of archaeological potential within the study area and the heritage impacts of the proposed works on the potential archaeological resource and heritage items. They also identified management strategies to mitigate any identified adverse impacts including the program of archaeological monitoring and recording in association with the proposed works.

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The Sydney Opera House Trust engaged GML to undertake the recommended program of archaeological monitoring and recording. The works commenced in March this year concurrent with the bulk excavation for the Bennelong stormwater channel diversion and have been carried out in accordance with the approved excavation permits and recommended methodology contained within the abovementioned. The monitoring and recording works are still in progress.

During the course of works a number of known and potential archaeological relics have been exposed to date, including a portion of the c1860 seawall, boat slip and associated fills located west of Man O'War Steps and the extant eastern seawall (Figures 1 and 2). The boat slip remains were identified during the excavation of a pit for the Gross Pollutant Trap (GPT). The pit measured over 2.5m in depth and also provided evidence of a thick reclamation fill used associated with the extant sea wall believed to be contemporaneous with the construction of the Opera House (Figure 3). The exposed sections of identified archaeological relics including the c1860s seawall and the boat slip are located below the depth required by the proposed new works and will remain undisturbed.

Proposed Modification

The proposed modification works include installation of a new stormwater outlet in the extant eastern seawall to replace an existing outlet which will be decommissioned and patched in a sympathetic manner to the outer fabric of the sea wall. The new outlet will measure 525mm in diameter.

The outlet represents the easternmost end of the new stormwater pipe which will be running in the east-west direction across the forecourt and towards the eastern seawall. The nominated depth for the excavation of the service trenches would not exceed 1.5m.

Potential Archaeological Resource and Heritage Impacts

The above-mentioned reports concluded that the forecourt of SOH has potential to contain significant historical archaeological remains associated with various phases of the historical development of Bennelong Point. The proposed new works would require at least partial removal of some of these remains however the extent of impact of the proposed works on the site's archaeological significance would be relatively minor.

The current program of archaeological monitoring and recording associated with ground disturbance works for the installation of the new stormwater pipe and other services has provided evidence of archaeological relics located west of the Man O'War Steps and the extant eastern seawall. The area east of the identified relics consists of the reclamation fills associated with the creation of the extant sea wall and other related elements contemporaneous with construction of Sydney Opera House.

Based on the analysis of a number of historic plans that document the physical development of Bennelong Point throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and the evidence provided by the current archaeological investigations, the potential for historical archaeological remains to be present in the area of the proposed new works is low or nil. With the exception of Man O'War Steps, no other known or potential archaeological remains are to be expected in this area of proposed new works which can also be explained by the close proximity to the natural seashore. In addition, should any unidentified archaeological remains exist within the area of proposed new works they would not be subject to any adverse impacts as they would be located below the proposed excavation depth of 1.5m.

Conclusion

The proposed new works involve installation of a new stormwater outlet in the extant eastern seawall. The new outlet is the easternmost end of a stormwater pipe that is extending across the forecourt in the east-west direction. The portion of the study area immediately to the west of Man O'War Steps and the extant sea wall was subject to archaeological monitoring and recording as part of the current service relocation works which resulted in a discovery of the c1860 seawall, boat slip and later reclamation fills. These archaeological relics are located at the depth below that required by the proposed new works. Based on this information as well as the analysis of a number of historic plans and the proximity of the study area to the ocean it is unlikely that any archaeological remains survive in the area between the exposed relics and the extant eastern seawall.

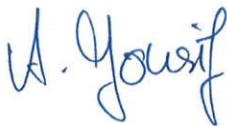
Concluding Statement

The proposed installation of the new stormwater pipe and its outlet in the extant sea wall will not cause any archaeological impacts as the area adjacent to the extant wall has low or nil potential to contain significant archaeological evidence, particularly at the level that is required for the proposed new works.

If any further information is required regarding any of the above I would be happy to provide further assistance.

Yours sincerely

Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd



Anita Yousif
Senior Archaeologist

Figures:



Figure 1 View looking north showing the exposed section of the c1860 sea wall located within a trench excavated for the installation of new services. (GML 2011)



Figure 1 East section of the pit for the Gross Pollutant Trap showing fills associated with the construction of the Sydney Opera House. The pit was further excavated to a depth of over 2.5m resulting in the discovery of apportion of the oat slip. (Source: GML 2011)



Figure 2 Exposed boat slip remains located within the excavated pit for Gross Pollutant Trap. (Source: GML 2011)

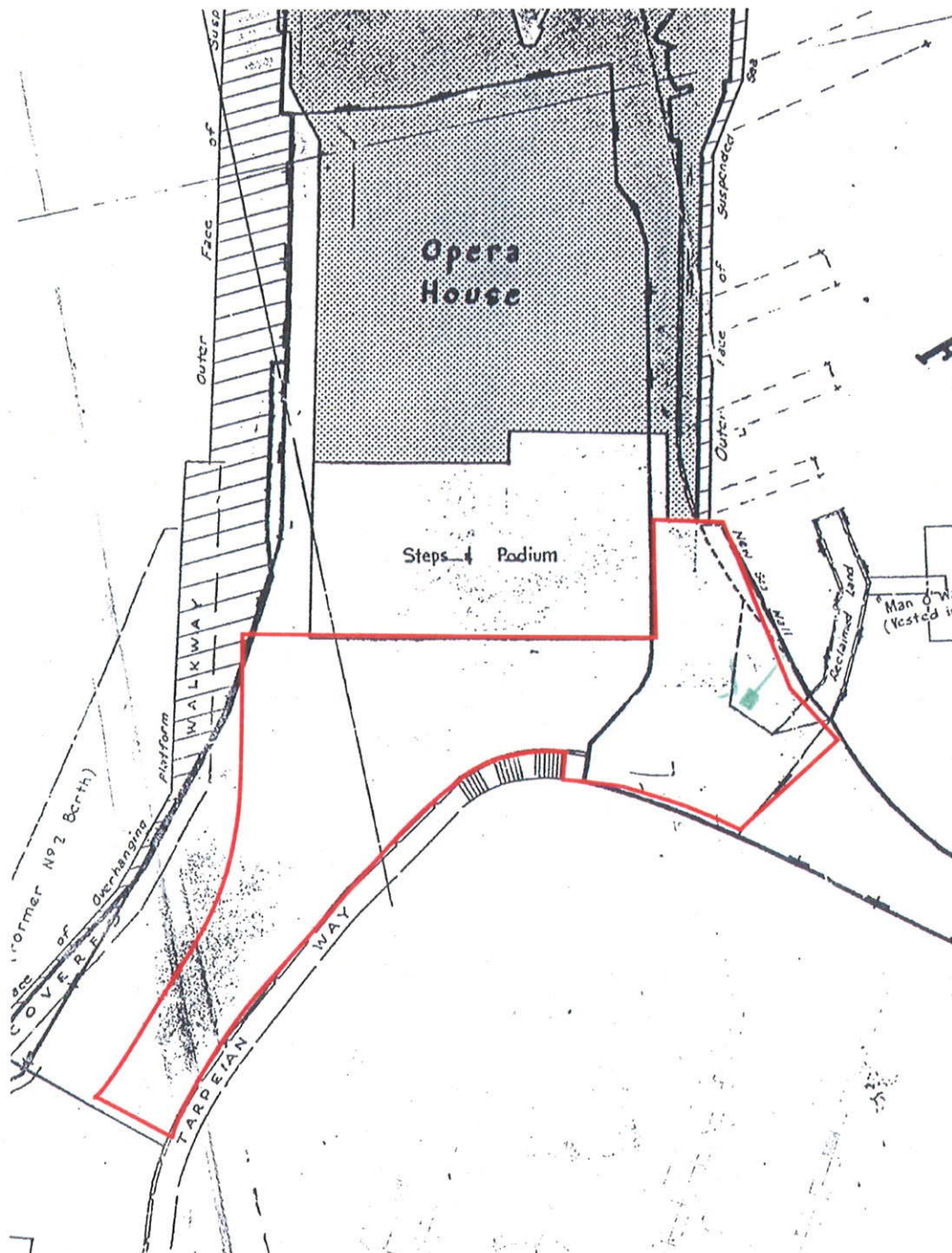
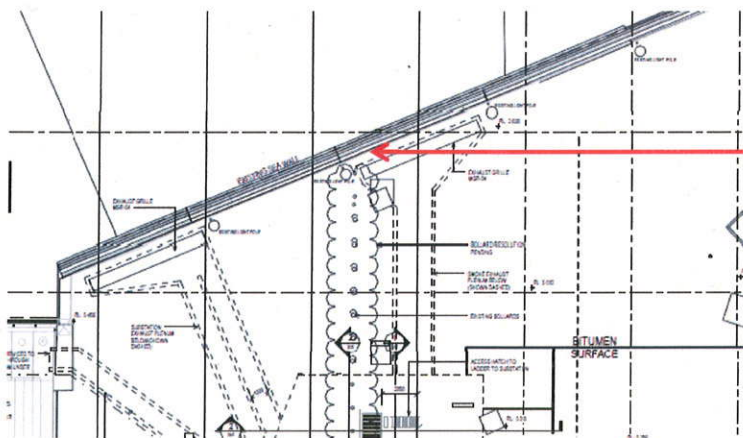
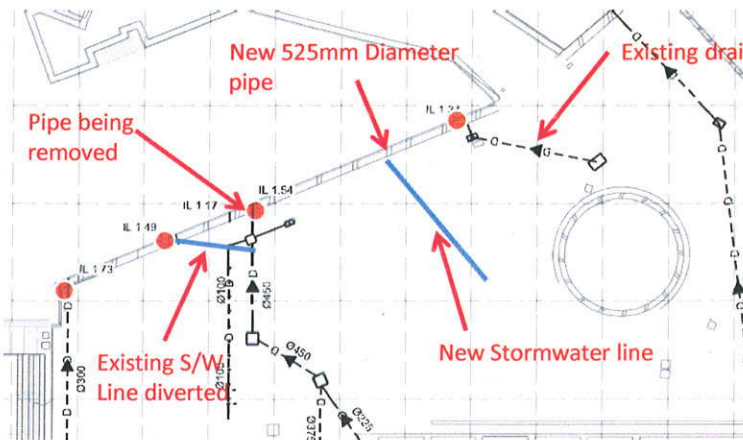


Figure 3 c1973 plan of the Sydney Opera House site, indicating the location of the recently identified archaeological relics (outlined in green) in the vicinity of the proposed modification works on the section of the extant seawall along the eastern shoreline. The study area is outlined in red.



SOH - EASTERN SEA WALL Proposed Amendments to Stormwater Outlets 27.06.11

New plenums under the asphalt paving disrupts an existing stormwater outlet in this area. Proposed to remove; patch and replace with a new outlet as indicated below.



● Denotes existing stormwater outlets to stone wall



