



Our ref: DOC21/404988

Dimitri Gotsis
Infrastructure Assessments
4 Parramatta Square
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

By email: Dimitri.Gotsis@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Dear Mr. Gotsis

Notice of Exhibition of application for Epping West Public-School Alterations and Additions (SSD 9250948)

Thank you for your referral dated 19 May 2021 inviting comments from the Heritage Council of NSW on the above State Significant Development (SSD 9250948) proposal.

The proposed development involves alterations and additions to the Epping West Public School which would include:

- Demolition of an existing building;
- Removal of 11 temporary classroom buildings;
- Construction of two (2) new buildings which will include:
 - 26 Homebases;
 - Student amenities;
 - Administration and staff areas;
- Refurbishment of two (2) existing buildings on site including a small addition; and
- Landscaping.

The proposed SSD 9250948 proposal, Epping West Public School, Epping, NSW, is not listed on the State Heritage Register nor is it located within a heritage conservation area. There are no items listed on the State Heritage Register within the vicinity of the SSD 9250948 proposal.

The proposal area is listed as a heritage item on the Hornsby LEP 2013 as 'Epping West Public School – original building dated 1927 (excluding other buildings and grounds), Item 365. The main building (Building A) is also included as an item on the Department of Education's Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register as Epping West Public School – Building B00A', Item number 5064440.

The School is of local heritage significance for its historic, associative, social and aesthetic values. The inter-war public school building is highly intact and is significant as a record of the development of the suburb and the role of and the changing ideologies in education. The school is also associated with the local defensive efforts during the Second World War and National Emergency Services.

The following reports were considered in our assessment:

- *Epping West Public School Heritage Impact Statement, GML Heritage, 23 April 2021.*

As delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW, I provide the following comments:

Archaeological potential and archaeological impact

The assessments states that:

- there is low potential for archaeological remains associated with Phase 1 European occupation (1794-1924) of the proposal area including timber getting, furrows and plough marks associated with orcharding, irrigation channels, post holes and isolated artefact scatters associated with agricultural works.
- There is low and moderate-high potential for archaeological remains associated with Phase 2, The Bevan Dairy Farm (1924-1950).
 - Low archaeological potential is associated with the establishment of the school and includes evidence of portable classrooms, postholes, footings, garden beds and artefacts associated with education and schooling.
 - Moderate-high archaeological potential is associated with the Bevan Farm Dairy and includes evidence of the weatherboard cottage remains including foundations, postholes and underfloor deposits, cesspits, wells, outbuildings, yard surfaces and garden features. Evidence may also include drainage channels, artefacts associated with agricultural activities, foundations of stalls and outbuildings as well as cesspits and wells.
- There is moderate-high potential for archaeological remains associated with Phase 3, World War II Developments (1942-1945) and includes evidence of air raid shelter trenches and associated structures such as wooden form work and gas communication and water services.
- There is moderate-high potential for archaeological remains associated with Phase 4, Postwar Developments (1945-Present) and includes evidence of the original school buildings (now demolished) in the form of trenches and foundations and artefacts associated with education and schooling.

The results of the assessment found that although detailed design has yet to be determined the schematic design shows impacts to potential archaeological remains such as:

- The construction of building 2 would result in the localised removal and truncation of archaeological remains within an area of moderate-high potential associated with the Phase 2 former Bevan Dairy Farm.
- Landscaping works are likely to impact areas of archaeological potential however, until detailed designs are prepared the extent of impacts are unknown.

Archaeological significance

A statement of archaeological significance has been presented in Section 6.3. The statement of significance has not assessed the significance of the potential archaeological remains in accordance with the Guidance document *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'* (Heritage Branch, 2009).

The assessment of archaeological significance concluded that the proposal area has the potential to contain historical archaeological resources of local significance, however, the assessment did not demonstrate that to be the case. The reasoning provided is that *'surviving archaeological remains have potential to contribute to known historical information about the various phases of site development'*... (GML report p.49).

The above mentioned guidelines note that for an archaeological site to be significant there is a need for archaeological research to add to the knowledge of the past in an important way, rather than duplicating known information or information already available from other sources such as documentary records or oral history. We also note that items such as possible air raid trenches are 'works' not 'relics' within the meaning of the NSW Heritage Act, 1977, and that such items would not normally be managed under that Act. Dairy buildings and fence lines are only likely to confirm the historic occupation already known from the history of the site.

Therefore, Heritage NSW does not concur that the Epping West Public School has historical archaeological significance and it is unlikely to contain 'relics' within the meaning of the NSW Heritage Act, 1977.

Consequently, no further historical archaeological investigations or works are considered necessary as part of the proposal. No archaeology consent conditions are recommended.

If the project is approved Heritage NSW recommends that an appropriate Unexpected Finds protocol is developed and included in relevant project documents such as a CEMP.

The site contains a local heritage item and an item on the NSW Department of Education's Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register. Advice should be sought from the City of Parramatta Council and the NSW Department of Education respectively.

If you have any questions regarding the above advice, please contact Joshua Madden, Senior Historical Archaeology Officer at Heritage NSW on 02 9873 8512 or josh.madden@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



01 June 2021

Dr Siobhan Lavelle OAM
Senior Team Leader, Specialist Services
Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet
As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW