



Historical Archaeological Assessment

Concept and Detailed Development Kincoppal-Rose Bay School 1A and 2 Vacluse Road Vacluse

Woollahra LGA



October 2020

Report prepared for Kincoppal-Rose Bay School

Project Summary

Kincoppal-Rose Bay School proposes to undertake a program of works to upgrade the existing school facilities. The works are being assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD 10325), under Part 4 Division 4.7 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The DPIE Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) states that the project Environmental Impact Statement must include a Heritage Impact Statement; an updated Conservation Management Plan, and an assessment of historical archaeological impact. The Conservation Management Plan and Heritage Impact Statement have been prepared by Design 5 Architects.¹ Kincoppal-Rose Bay School has engaged Coast History and Heritage (Coast) to prepare this Historical Archaeological Assessment, which is an addendum to the Heritage Impact Statement.

Kincoppal-Rose Bay School is located on Vaucluse Road, Vaucluse, in the Woollahra Local Government Area. The school is just over six hectares in size, and is divided into two parts by Vaucluse Road. The property was part of the historic Vaucluse Estate from the late 1830s, and in c.1850 was bought by George Thorne, who built the iconic Claremont House for his family. The property remained a large residential estate until the 1880s. Thereafter it was leased to, and then purchased by, the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for use as a school. The school remains, with several phases of development having been undertaken since the late nineteenth century to accommodate the growth of the school population and changes in education.

This report addresses only those locations within the school that will be subject to ground disturbance as a result of the proposed program of works. The available documentary evidence indicates that these include the following former features:

- Path from Claremont House to the waterfront, c.1850 to c.1933
- Entrance drive to Claremont House
- Earlier phases of the forecourt layout
- Conservatory, 1890s, moved in 1932, demolished 1950s
- Carpenter's workshop, moved in 1887
- Privy, 1907 to 1990s
- Garden shelter, 1910 to at least the 1930s
- The Poplars, 1929 to 1960s
- Vegetable garden, 1930s to 1960s
- Unknown structure, 1935-61 to 1980s or 1990s

The proposed development would result in removal of any remains of these features that are present within the development footprints. However, all of the proposed development locations have previously been subject to one (or more) phases of redevelopment, which are likely to have already impacted any remains. Any surviving remains are likely to be fragmentary in nature and to have low archaeological research potential. They are therefore unlikely to be of local or State

¹ Design 5 Architects. 2020a & 2020b

heritage significance, and would not meet the threshold for identification as relics, as defined and protected by the *Heritage Act 1977*.

The potential for historical archaeological impact as a result of the proposed works is therefore low. However, any unexpected, undocumented relics exposed during works would be protected by the Heritage Act. The following recommendations are therefore made to accommodate this possibility:

1. Once detailed design for each element is finalised, and if ground disturbance is required, the potential for historical archaeological impact should be checked against this report:
 - a. If the extent of disturbance has been increased, or the location has been altered, the potential for historical archaeological impact should be assessed.
 - b. If the extent and location of disturbance is unchanged, no further historical archaeological investigations are required, and the work may proceed with caution.
2. Historical archaeological relics within the study area remain protected by the Heritage Act. If any historical archaeological relics, or possible relics, are identified during construction, site workers must:
 - a. Not further disturb or move these remains
 - b. Immediately cease all work at the location
 - c. Seek advice from Heritage NSW and/or an archaeologist with relevant experience
 - d. Not recommence any work at the location unless authorised in writing by Heritage NSW.
3. Copies of this report should be forwarded to the Heritage Library, Heritage NSW; and to the Woollahra Library Local Studies Collection.

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1 Introduction to the project

Kincoppal-Rose Bay School proposes to undertake a program of works to upgrade the existing school facilities and provide new amenities for the long-term growth and operation of the school. The proposed works are being assessed as a State Significant Development (SSD 10325) under Part 4 Division 4.7 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) has issued the Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the project. In relation to historical (non-Aboriginal) heritage, the SEARs require a Heritage Impact Statement, an updated Conservation Management Plan, and an assessment of historical archaeological impact (Key Issue 11).

The Conservation Management Plan and Heritage Impact Statement have been prepared by Design 5 Architects.² Kincoppal-Rose Bay School has engaged Coast History and Heritage (Coast) to prepare this Historical Archaeological Assessment, which is an addendum to the project Heritage Impact Statement.

1.1 What the report contains

The report assesses the potential for the proposed development to result in historical archaeological impact. It has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines issued by Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet, in particular:

- *Assessing significance for historical archaeological sites and relics*,³
- *Historical archaeology code of practice*.⁴

The report contains:

- a description of the study area, the proposal and the background to our study (**Section 1**)
- an overview of the historical and documentary information, and description of the site inspection (**Section 2**)
- an assessment of historical archaeological potential of the proposed development areas (**Section 3**)
- our assessment of the potential historical archaeological impact of the proposed development (**Section 4**)
- our conclusions and recommendations (**Section 5**)
- the references used in our report (**Section 6**).

² Design 5 Architects. 2020a & 2020b

³ Heritage Branch 2009

⁴ Heritage Office 2006

1.2 Who contributed to the report

Authorship and acknowledgements

The report was written by Fenella Atkinson and was reviewed by Dan Tuck. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance provided by Terry Mahady (Mahady Management) and Anita Krivickas (Design 5 Architects).

1.3 What we are assessing

The property and proposal

Kincoppal-Rose Bay School is located on Vaucluse Road, Vaucluse, in the Woollahra Local Government Area, and in the Parish of Alexandria, County of Cumberland (**Figure 1**). The school is described as Lot 104 in Deposited Plan 1092747, and is about 6.04 hectares in size. The campus is divided into two parts by Vaucluse Road.

The proposed development comprises a program of works to upgrade the existing facilities and provide new facilities for the school (see **Section 4.1**). The work areas are divided into three precincts within the western campus of the school: A, B and C. The works will be undertaken as staged development, and have been divided between Concept Development and Detailed Development packages.

The focus of the present report is on those elements of the proposed development that will involve ground disturbance (**Figure 2**).

1.4 What we have considered

Legislative and policy requirements

In preparing this report and its recommendations, we are guided by the legal protections provided to historical archaeology under the *Heritage Act 1977*. The Act is administered by Heritage NSW within the Department of Premier and Cabinet. It gives statutory protection to, among other things, all historical archaeological ‘relics’ in New South Wales. The Act defines a ‘relic’ as

any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that:

- a) relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and*
- b) is of State or local heritage significance.*

If a proposed activity will result in harm to a relic, it is necessary to apply for an Excavation Permit under s139 of the Act, or an Approval under Part 4 if the relevant land is also listed on the State Heritage Register.⁵ An Excavation Permit or Approval may be issued by the Heritage Council of New South Wales, based on the assessment of a valid application and an accompanying statement of heritage impact and/or historical archaeological assessment.

⁵ Kincoppal-Rose Bay School is not listed on the State Heritage Register

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) sets out the way the Heritage Act protections are considered in relation to proposed developments. There are three main parts of the EP&A Act which outline how historical heritage is to be considered. Part 3 governs the preparation of planning instruments such as Local Environmental Plans, Part 4 relates to development assessment and consent and Part 5 considers infrastructure and environmental impact assessment.

In this case, the proposed Concept and Detailed Development packages will be assessed by the DPIE as consent authority, as a State Significant Development under Part 4 Division 4.7 of the EP&A Act. This process removes the requirement for an Excavation Permit under the Heritage Act. However, if a proposed development will result in harm to relics, this is instead addressed directly in the development consent conditions.

If development applications for elements of the Concept Development package are subsequently submitted to Woollahra Council, as the consent authority, then the permit requirements of the Heritage Act will apply. The heritage management provisions of the Woollahra Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2014 and Development Control Plan (DCP) will also be relevant. Clause 5.10 of the LEP specifies that consent is required for any development that may disturb an archaeological site, and that the consent authority must consult with the Heritage Council regarding the application.

As well as the heritage and planning legislation outlined above, a Conservation Management Plan has been prepared to manage the heritage values of Kincoppal-Rose Bay School, including any potential historical archaeological remains.⁶ The policies relating to historical archaeology are presented in **Table 1**. In general, it is recommended that archaeological relics be conserved where possible. Where impact to relics is unavoidable, the correct permit should be obtained, and the relics should be subject to archaeological investigation prior to impact, and interpreted in future development of the site.

Table 1. Conservation policies relating to historical archaeology⁷

12.1	Archaeology	Any evidence of removed structures beneath the existing structures should be retained in situ. Archaeological remains should preferably not be exposed or removed from the site.
12.2	Investigation and recording	Investigation and recording should be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist in areas where the survival of evidence is under threat, about to be lost, made inaccessible or about to be covered.
12.3	Archaeology permits	Where work or development is proposed which may involve disturbance of sub-surface fabric, relevant permits should be obtained before the commencement of work. An archaeological assessment must be prepared by a qualified historical archaeologist in accordance with Guidelines published by the Heritage Council prior to further archaeological investigations. As a minimum, an archaeological watching brief or monitoring program may need to be undertaken.

⁶ Design 5 Architects 2020a.

⁷ Design 5 Architects 2020a: 137

12.4	New evidence	A log must be kept of all new evidence found during works, and decisions arising from it added to the existing archive on the place or incorporated into a report or addendum to this Conservation Management Plan, as appropriate.
12.5	Interpretation of archaeology	Heritage interpretation of any historical archaeological relics and resources recovered during archaeological investigation should be integrated into the planning for any future development for the site.



Figure 1. The study area (shaded yellow) and Kincoppal-Rose Bay School (red outline)

Source: NSW Spatial Services (as amended)

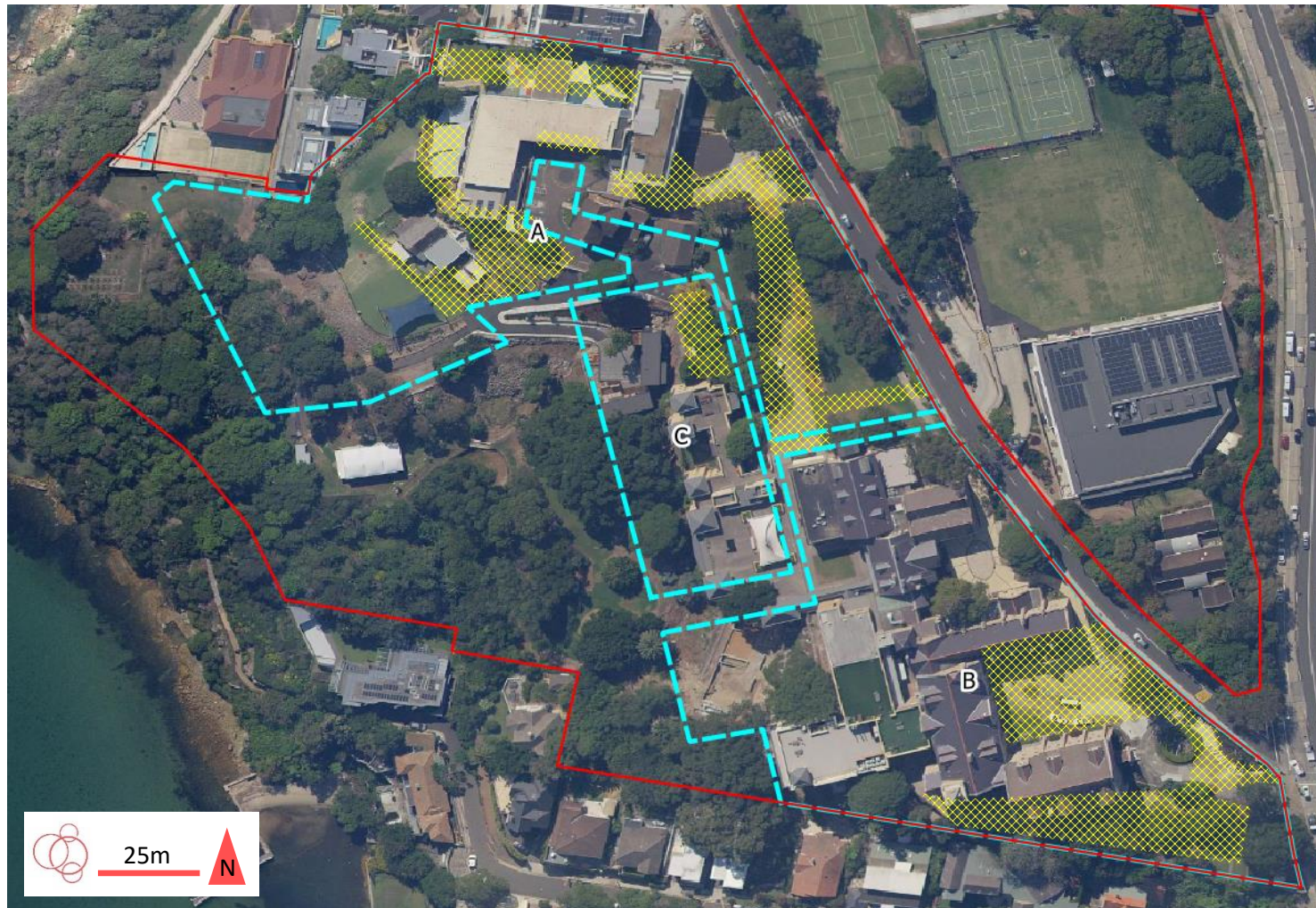


Figure 2. The locations of the proposed ground disturbance (yellow hatching) in the three precincts within the western campus

Source: NSW Spatial Services (as amended)

2 Information we have considered

Description of the study area and its context

2.1 Heritage registers

There are several statutory and non-statutory heritage registers that list identified heritage items in New South Wales. The registers were searched as part of the Heritage Impact Statement, and the results are shown in **Table 2**. The western campus of Kincoppal-Rose Bay School is listed on four registers. The details provided in the listings are minimal, where available, and do not mention historical archaeological potential. The study area is also within the much larger Sydney Harbour Landscape Conservation Area, which comprises all the land that can be seen from the water, from Sydney Heads as far as Long Nose Point. The brief listing notes the European heritage of the general area, but does not mention archaeology specifically.

Table 2. Listed heritage items within and in proximity to the study area

Item	Address	Register	No.
Kincoppal, Roman Catholic Convent of the Sacred Heart and school – buildings and interiors, grounds, trees, sandstone and wrought iron fence, gateposts and gates	2 Vaucluse Road, Vaucluse Lot 104 DP 1072747	Woollahra LEP 2014	396
		Register of the National Trust of Australia (NSW)	
		Register of the National Estate	2585
		Australian Institute of Landscape Architecture Cultural Landscape Register	
Sydney Harbour Landscape Conservation Area	Sydney	Register of the National Estate	14308
		Register of the National Trust of Australia (NSW)	

2.2 Historical development

The history of the study area is detailed in the 2002 Conservation Analysis and the 2020 Conservation Management Plan (CMP).⁸

The two parts of the school are referred to in this report as the western campus (on the western side of Vaucluse Road) and the eastern campus (on the eastern side of Vaucluse Road). The focus in this section is on the development and occupation of the western campus.

⁸ Clive Lucas, Stapleton and Partners 2002; Design 5 Architects 2020a

The western campus

The study area is within a property comprising 372 acres that was bought by W.C. Wentworth in 1838, and added to his existing Vaucluse Estate. Documented development in this period included a bridle path running parallel to the shoreline, and two huts (in the current eastern campus). The bridle path was in use from the 1820s and remained until at least 1879, when an easement was reserved for its use.

The study area was included in a subdivision of part of the Vaucluse Estate in the 1840s. Most of the lots comprising the study area were bought by George Thorne in 1848, 1850 and 1873. Development in this period included construction of Claremont House (western campus), Claremont Cottage (eastern campus) and a pool and jetty on the foreshore (outside the current school boundaries). In 1879 the property was sold to Henry Arding Thomas, who renovated Claremont House.

The Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus leased the property in 1882, and bought it in 1884, and opened a private school for girls. The Main Building, Chapel and South Wing were built in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, in the southern part of the western campus. A level building platform for these structures was created by construction of a massive sandstone retaining wall. Stone for the Chapel was quarried from the eastern campus and from the location now known as the Grotto in the western campus. A cemetery was also established on the property. In 1970s, the Rose Bay School was merged with the Kincoppal School at Elizabeth Bay.

Over the years, changes have been made to the facilities, buildings and landscapes of the study area, in response to the changing needs and nature of the school. Major programs of works were undertaken in the 1930s, 1950s, and 1970s. Further works were undertaken in the 1980s to accommodate the amalgamated school and in 2009/10 involving construction of the Maureen Tudehope Centre (eastern campus). Changes to the extent of the property have included the resumption of the harbour foreshore reserve in 1913; widening of Vaucluse Road in 1923; widening of New South Head Road in 1930; transfer of land at the intersection of Vaucluse and New South Head Roads in 1940; purchase of the neighbouring property at 4 Vaucluse Road (The Poplars) in 1952 and sale of land in the north-east corner in 1952.

The current site plan is provided as **Figure 3**.

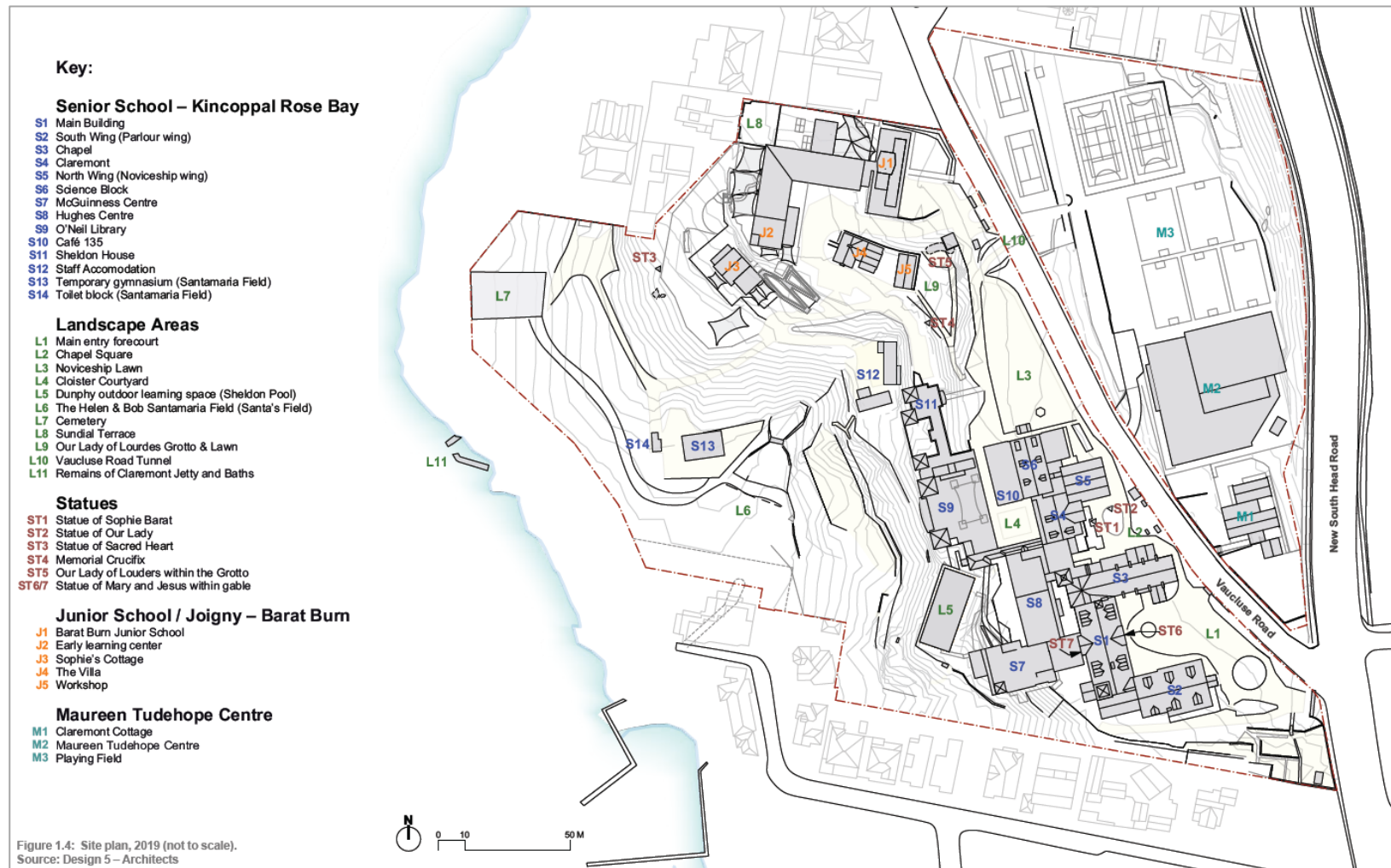


Figure 3. The current site plan of Kincoppal-Rose Bay School

Source: Design 5 Architects 2020a: Fig.1.4

The proposed development footprint

The development footprint is divided between three main locations within the western campus of Kincoppal-Rose Bay School: Precincts A, B and C. The CMP includes a series of site evolution drawings, showing the changes in the built landscape of the school over time, covering the period 1851 to 2019.⁹ The three parts of the development footprint have been compared against these drawings to indicate the nature of past development and occupation of these locales.

- **Precinct A**

The diagrams representing the early development of Precinct A show that the internal road leading from Claremont House down to the jetty and pool on the waterfront passed through this section of the study area. The diagrams from 1851 to 1928 show the road following much the same alignment. After that date, however, a number of substantial alterations were made to the alignment as the surrounding area was redeveloped, with works including the 1933 tunnel under Vacluse Road. In 1966 the present gate was constructed at the entrance off Vacluse Road, and in the 1990s the entrance was duplicated.

Former features immediately adjacent to Precinct A include the Carpenter's Workshop (formerly the Hunt Chapel) which was moved to this location in 1887, and the sandstone quarry that was redeveloped as Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto in 1923. The Noviceship Lawn, to the east of the road through Precinct A, is thought to date to the 1910s.

Former structures within Precinct A include a privy (built in 1907 for the adjacent Gardener's Cottage, now Sophie's Cottage, and remaining until the 1990s); a Garden Shelter (built in 1910 and still standing in the 1930s); and a small building of unknown function (built between 1935 and 1961, which remained until the 1980s or early 1990s).

The Poplars was built in the northern part of Precinct A in 1929: on a neighbouring property that was incorporated into the school property in 1952. The house was demolished in the 1960s for the construction of the Barat Burn Junior School (1966). This development included construction of an amenities block across part of the location of the former house. However, the present Sundial Lawn is a remnant of *The Poplars* western yard.

In 1995 an outdoor play area was constructed in the northern part of Precinct A. In 2015, the present ramps were built, providing access from the upper level of the Barat Burn Junior School to the lower level of the addition to Sophie's Cottage (formerly the Gardener's Cottage).

See **Figure 4**.

⁹ Design 5 Architects 2020: Figure 2.1 to Figure 2.13.

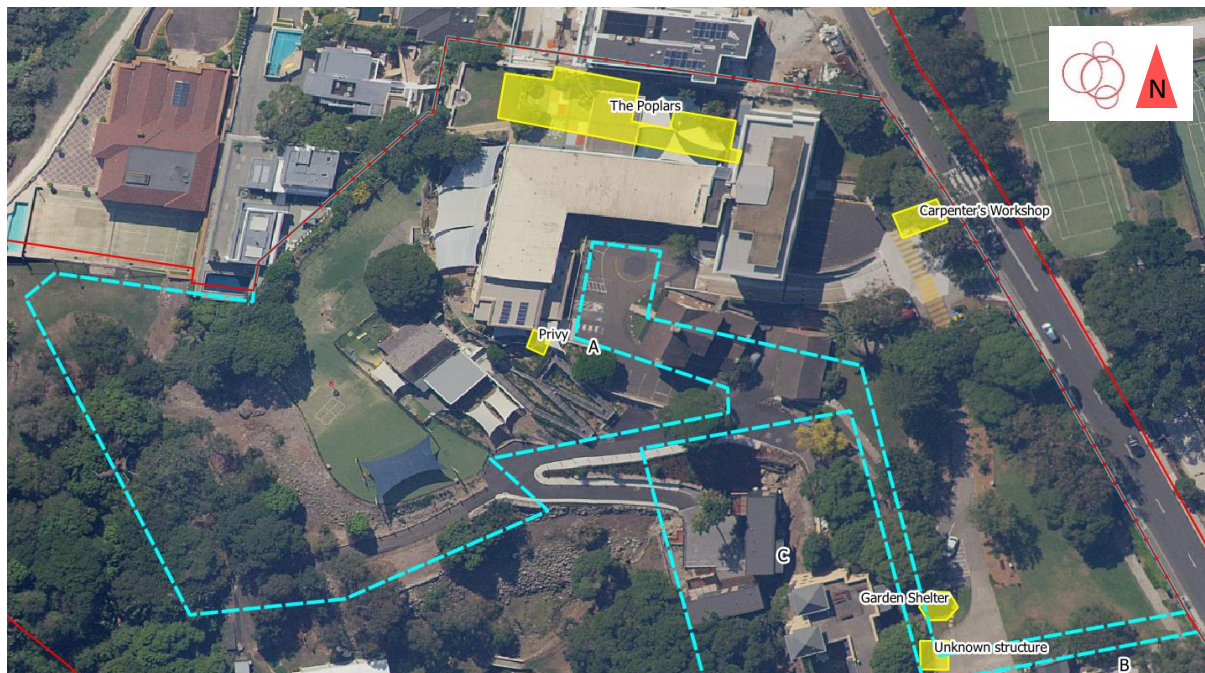


Figure 4. The approximate locations of former structures within the proposed development area in Precinct A

- **Precinct B**

The entrance drive to Claremont House passed through Precinct B, and is shown in the same alignment in the diagrams from 1851 to 1888. However, Precinct B would have been substantially modified in the late 1880s, in connection with the construction of the first part of the school building (now the Main Building) in 1888. The large retaining wall constructed to create the building platform passed through Precinct B. The watercourse that passed through this part of the school property was probably also remodelled as an open drain at this time. A conservatory or bush house was built on the southern property boundary in the early 1890s (certainly by 1894) and was moved slightly to the east in 1932.¹⁰ The diagrams indicate that the conservatory remained in the second location through to the 1950s.

By 1900, the original entrance drive had been replaced with new paths to the new school buildings. The entrance and forecourt area has been modified on several occasions through to the present. It currently includes two circular garden beds, the western one has been in place since the 1920s, and the eastern one since the 1930s. From the 1920s, vehicle access was also provided through Precinct B to the back of the Main Building. At the main entrance to the school, the Jubilee Memorial Gates and stone boundary wall were constructed in 1933, after New South Head Road was widened. Another entrance was created to the north, off Vaucluse Road in 1997: the Kincoppal Gates.

See **Figure 5**.

¹⁰ Design 5 Architects 2020: 67



Figure 5. The approximate location of former structures within the proposed development area in Precinct B

- **Precinct C**

The CMP site evolution diagrams indicate that there was no development within Precinct C from 1851 to 1928. The earliest development known in this area is the vegetable garden, shown in the 1938 diagram, which extended into the southern part of Precinct C. Levelling of the area for the garden began in c.1930, and once the beds were in production they largely replaced the earlier vegetable garden beside Claremont Cottage.¹¹ The diagrams indicate that the vegetable garden remained until the 1960s and possibly through to the 1970s. The area was redeveloped in the 1990s, when Sheldon House was constructed to the south. An internal road was constructed through Precinct C at this time, to provide vehicle access to the northern end of Sheldon House.

See **Figure 6**.

¹¹ Design 5 Architects 2020: 179

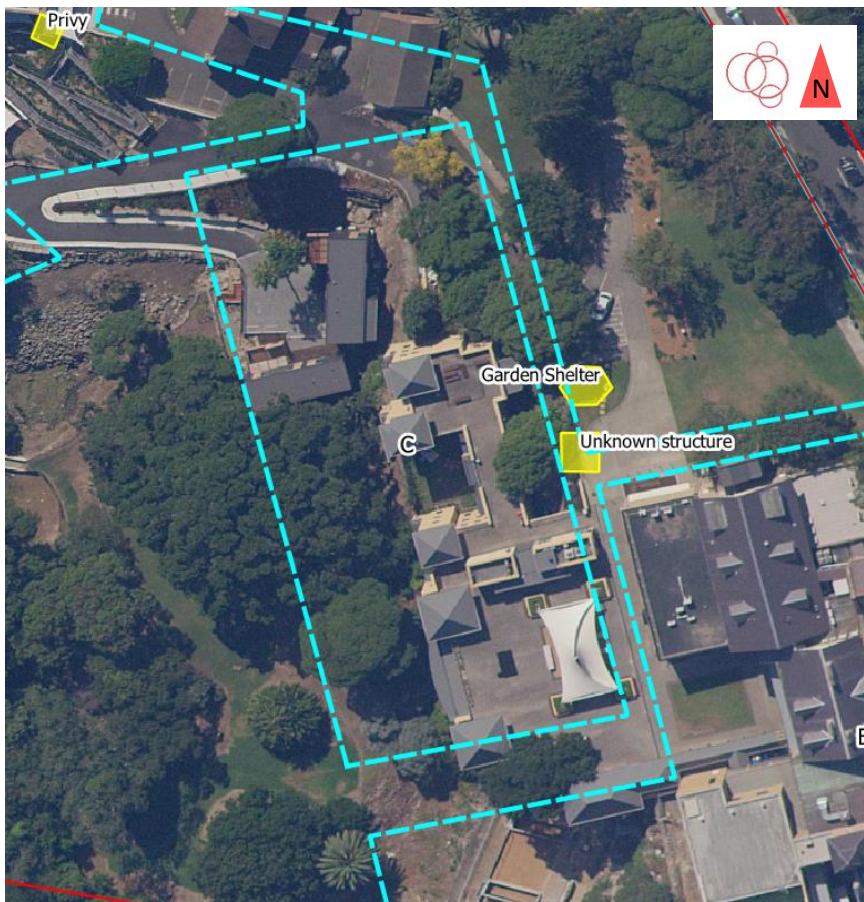


Figure 6. The approximate location of former structures adjacent to Precinct C

2.3 Previous reports

Previous historical archaeological reports have been prepared for redevelopments in the eastern campus of the school. The conservation plans also include references to historical archaeology. This section includes summaries of the relevant sections of these previous reports.

Claremont Cottage

In 1991, an assessment was made of the built heritage and historical archaeological values of Claremont Cottage, located on the eastern campus, as the structure was being demolished.¹² Two remaining rooms were inspected for possible archaeological remains. Patches of a possible occupation deposit were identified, but no evidence of a significant or substantial occupation deposit was found, and it was not possible to determine whether a substantial deposit had previously been present. In the area surrounding the former Cottage, a number of structural remains were found. These were thought to represent the remains of former twentieth-century structures, in some of which material from earlier structures had been incorporated.

¹² Thorp & McDonald 1991

Conservation Analysis and Guidelines

In the 2002 Conservation Analysis and Guidelines, 12 potential historical archaeological sites were identified (**Figure 7**).¹³ The significance of the potential sites was ranked, on a scale ranging from 'some' to 'high', based on known historical associations with the place, and known historical development of the built environment and heritage. Of the identified potential sites, two are within or in the vicinity of the proposed development: a former timber-framed garage (Item 1) and the house The Poplars (Item 2) (**Table 3**).

Table 3. Potential historical archaeological sites in proximity to the proposed development

No.	Item	Description	Significance
1	Timber framed garage		Some
2	The Poplars	A house demolished in 1964. Remnants of the garden were retained in the redevelopment of the site; the sundial and terrazzo paving, stone steps, and masonry fence. Other landscaping remnants are extant on the adjoining property.	Medium

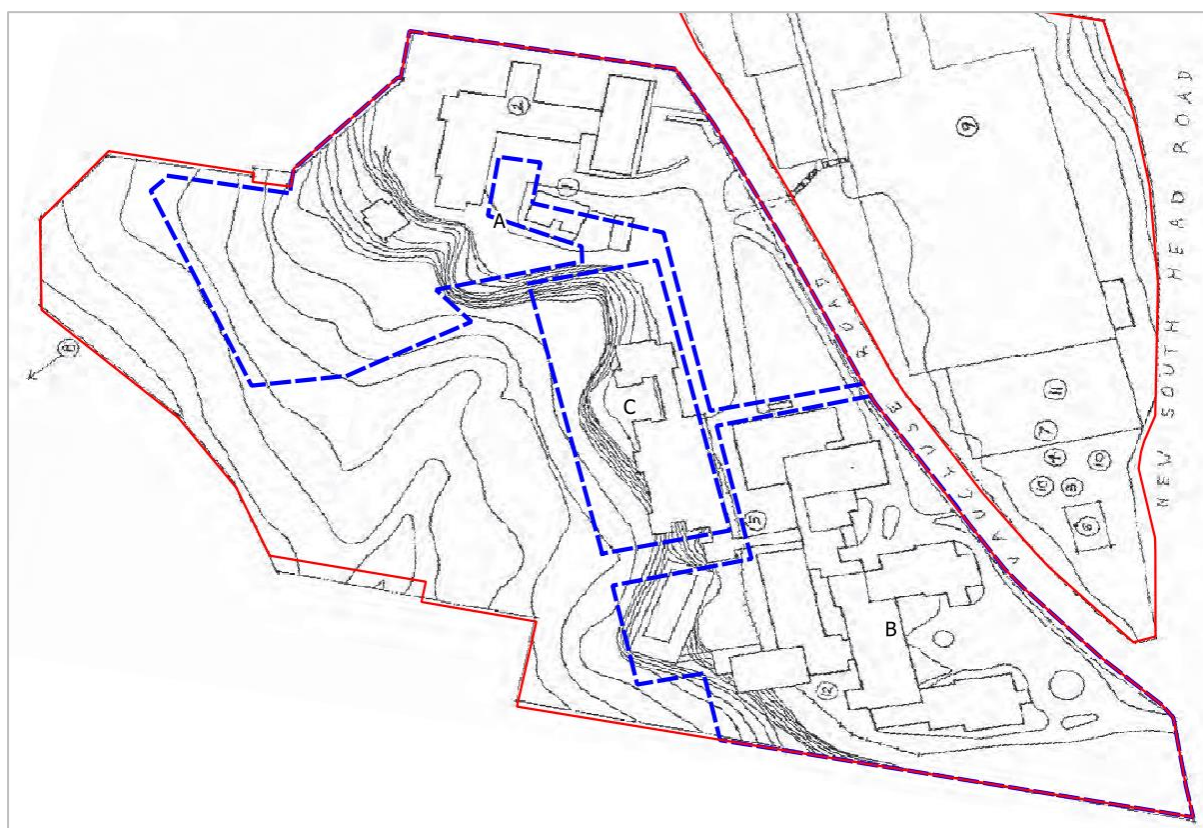


Figure 7. The potential historical archaeological sites identified in the 2002 Conservation Analysis

Source: CLSP 2002: Fig.4.4 (as amended)

¹³ Clive Lucas, Stapleton and Partners 2002

Maureen Truehope Centre

A historical archaeological assessment was undertaken prior to the construction of the Maureen Truehope Centre, which involved a substantial redevelopment of the eastern campus of the school (excluding the former location of Claremont Cottage).¹⁴ Known features in this area, prior to the school period, included huts or sheds, a stable and a windmill. It was found that subsequent earthworks, particularly the widening of Vaucluse Road and levelling for construction of playing fields, would have had a significant impact on any relics, and historical archaeological potential was assessed as low. In order to manage this potential, archaeological monitoring was recommended, with a focus on the locations of the former outbuildings and windmill.

During the subsequent monitoring program, it was found that the original landscape had been considerably modified, having been cut on the eastern side, and cut and filled on the western side.¹⁵ Four main archaeological features were revealed, comprising structural remains: a sandstone footing, which may have been part of one of the mid-19th century outbuildings; a brick-paved driveway with a sandstone kerb, probably dating to the late 19th/early 20th century; a sandstone and slurry footing, probably associated with the 20th century garden; and sandstone blocks, possibly representing demolition fill. Some artefacts were recovered from fill deposits. The relics were considered to be of local heritage significance.

Conservation Management Plan

The 2020 Conservation Management Plan does not include an assessment of the historical archaeological potential of the study area.¹⁶ It does include the following general comments:

As an archaeological resource, Kincoppal-Rose Bay has a long history of European occupation, and many of the earliest buildings remain, albeit added to or extended. Nonetheless the site has archaeological potential to contain evidence of the earliest building Claremont, constructed in 1851, as well as smaller outbuildings, such as garden or ancillary structures.¹⁷

The suggestion is therefore that the historical archaeological potential of the School relates largely to the pre-1882 period of occupation. The CMP contains policies for the management of historical archaeology of the School, which are reproduced in **Section 1.4**.

2.4 Site inspection

Site survey

The study area was inspected as part of the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report during a site meeting attended by Fenella Atkinson, and during the survey undertaken by Dr Paul Irish, Rebecca Bryant and Fenella Atkinson (Coast) and David Ingre (La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council). The relevant details from the site inspections are summarised in this section.

¹⁴ MDCA 2009a

¹⁵ MDCA 2009b

¹⁶ Design 5 Architects 2020a

¹⁷ Design 5 Architects 2020a: 137

- **Precinct A**

The proposed development area in Precinct A includes areas adjacent to the Junior School buildings; the entrance off Vaucluse Road and the existing internal road between the Junior School and the Senior School to the south. The ground around the Junior School slopes steeply from north-east to south-west, and has been terraced for construction of the buildings and surrounding landscaping (**Figure 9** and **Figure 13**). The play areas to the west are surfaced in artificial turf, and areas of outcropping sandstone are apparent in places that have not been entirely covered (**Figure 11** and **Figure 12**).

On the northern boundary of the study area is the Sundial Terrace, an area that is thought to remain from the yard of the former house The Poplars (**Figure 14**). The location of the former house itself has been terraced for construction of the Barat Burn building and the amenities block attached to the Junior School. Most of the area to the south and east of the Junior School buildings has been paved for internal roads and carparking (**Figure 15**). The area between the Early Learning Centre and Sophie's Cottage has recently been developed, and includes a timber ramp providing access between the two levels and garden beds.

The internal road running south from the Junior School is paved with concrete, with kerbing along one side (**Figure 16**). The road appears to have been cut into the slope towards the south. But the northern end sits above the Grotto, which represents a former sandstone quarry, and is likely to have been constructed on fill (**Figure 17**). To the east of the road is the Noviceship Lawn, which slopes up towards the boundary wall along Vaucluse Road (**Figure 18**).

The CMP site evolution diagrams indicate that the locations of five former structures are within or in close proximity to the proposed development footprint in Precinct A. No evidence of these former structures was observed during the site inspections. In all five of the locations, earthworks have been undertaken for the construction of the present structures and internal roads. Substantial earthworks have been required in many locations to accommodate the sloping landscape of the site. However the retention of the western yard of The Poplars, now known as the Sundial Terrace, indicates that construction has not entirely removed earlier features.

- **Precinct B**

The proposed development area in Precinct B comprises the internal road that enters the school at the intersection of Vaucluse and New South Head Roads, the forecourt of the Main Building, and the area to the south of the Main Building. In general, the ground slopes down from the north-east to the south west, and the southern boundary of the Precinct is characterised by a steep slope down to the south, supported by retaining walls (**Figure 19**). This is likely to represent the alignment of a former watercourse.

In the south-east corner of the Precinct is a terraced lawn and garden area (**Figure 20**). This is the location of the former conservatory. Most of the remainder of the proposed development area is covered with hard surfaces, for internal roads, footpaths and carparking areas (**Figure 21** to **Figure 23**). Garden beds are present along the Vaucluse Road boundary, and as turning circles in the forecourt. Although some indication of the original slope of the landform in this area is evident,

substantial earthworks have been undertaken along Vacluse Road, and to construct the platform on which the Main Building now stands.

- **Precinct C**

The proposed development area in Precinct C includes an internal road that provides access to Sheldon House (**Figure 24** to **Figure 26**). The road is paved with bitumen with concrete and sandstone kerbing. Along the east is a line of sandstone escarpment including an overhang that has been recorded as a potential Aboriginal archaeological site (AHIMS #45-6-3754). Along the west, there is another sharp break of slope: down to the level of the Staff Accommodation building.

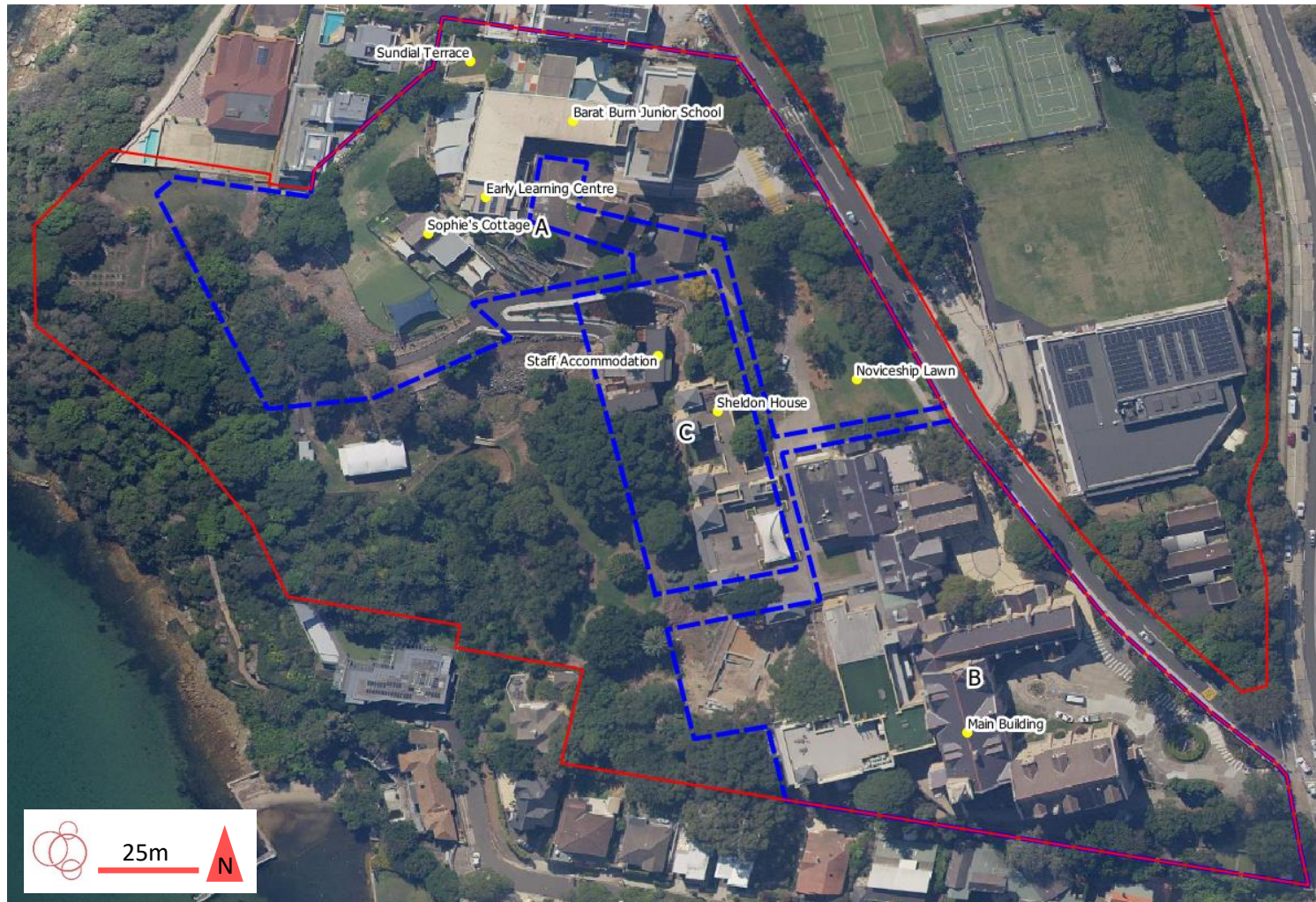


Figure 8. The study area showing key buildings and features

Source: NSW Spatial Services (as amended)



Figure 9. Precinct A: looking east up the internal road that enters off Vaucluse Road, between the Barat Burn Building to the left and The Villa to the right.



Figure 10. Precinct A: looking east, showing the retaining wall below the Early Learning Centre



Figure 11. Precinct A: the retaining wall below the Early Learning Centre, sitting on sandstone bedrock



Figure 12. Precinct A: sandstone outcropping



Figure 13. Precinct A: playground adjacent to the Barat Burn Junior School



Figure 14. Precinct A: the Sundial Terrace, which may represent the western yard of the former house The Poplars



Figure 15. Precinct A: looking west along the internal road past Sophie's Cottage



Figure 16. Precinct A: looking south along the internal road, with the Senior School in the background



Figure 17. Precinct A: looking north along the internal road, with the Grotto in the background



Figure 18. Precinct A: looking east across the Noviceship Lawn, towards the Vaucluse Road boundary



Figure 19. Precinct B: looking west along the alignment of the former watercourse



Figure 20. Precinct B: the terraced lawn and garden, looking south-west



Figure 21. Precinct B: the Vaucluse Road boundary, looking south-east



Figure 22. Precinct B: the forecourt of the main building, looking south



Figure 23. Precinct B: internal road and carpark to the south of the Main Building, looking west



Figure 24. Precinct C: the access road to Sheldon House, looking south-east



Figure 25. Precinct C: the access road, in the centre and right of the image, showing the Staff Accommodation building to the left

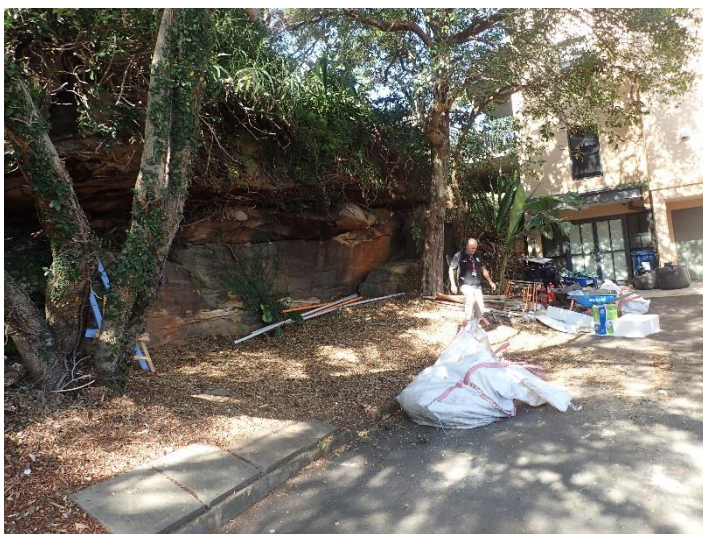


Figure 26. Precinct C: the southern end of the access road, with the escarpment to the left and Sheldon House in the background

3 Historical archaeological potential

3.1 Archaeological potential

- **Precinct A**

This part of the study area includes the locations, in whole or part, of four small structures from earlier phases of the development of the school: a privy, a workshop, a garden shelter, and a structure with an unknown function. These locations have been redeveloped for the construction of new buildings and internal roads. It is unlikely that remains of these small structures would survive.

The path from Claremont House down to the waterfront passed through this area, and the alignment remained in use in the early school period. It has subsequently been affected by multiple phases of realignment, as this part of the school campus has been redeveloped. There is some possibility that fragmentary remains of these earlier path alignments survive.

The former house *The Poplars* was located in this part of the study area. The house was built in 1929; incorporated into the school in 1952, and was demolished in the 1960s for the construction of the current Barat Burn Junior School building. Elements of the western yard of *The Poplars* are extant, in the Sundial Lawn. The location of the house itself, to the east, has been affected by construction of an amenities block and one wing of the Junior School. The survival of the Sundial Lawn indicates that the 1960s redevelopment did not involve excavation across the whole of *The Poplars* property. There is some possibility that fragmentary remains of the house itself survive. Given the twentieth century date of the building, any remains are likely to be restricted to structural features such as footings and services.

- **Precinct B**

One former structure is known to have been located within this part of the study area: a conservatory: built in the early 1890s; moved in 1932; standing until about the 1950s. Terraced lawns gardens have since been constructed across the original location of the conservatory. It does not appear that earthworks have been undertaken in the second location since the conservatory was removed, however, it is unlikely that substantial structural remains or any occupation deposit exist in the locale.

This part of the study area includes part of the entrance drive to Claremont House, but the area was then affected by substantial works that were undertaken for construction of the Main Building. The site evolution diagrams show a number of phases of development and redevelopment of the entrance and internal roads and forecourt. Each phase would have involved some impact on the remains of earlier phases, but it is likely that some elements remain.

- **Precinct C**

The only known development in this location is the vegetable garden, dating from the 1930s to the 1960s. Construction and use of the garden is unlikely to have resulted in the creation of substantial archaeological remains. In addition, the area has since been affected by the 1990s construction of the internal road providing access to Sheldon House.

Summary

The historical archaeological potential of the proposed development areas is low. Remains relating to the Claremont House phase of occupation are likely to comprise, at best, fragmentary elements of former paths. Remains relating to the school phase of occupation, from 1882, may similarly include elements of former paths, internal roads, and other landscaping features. With the exception of *The Poplars*, all of the known former structures appear to have been relatively insubstantial, ephemeral, and are likely to have been substantially impacted, or entirely removed, during the course of subsequent works. Remains of *The Poplars* may be present, and these are likely to be limited to structural features, given the 20th-century date of the house.

3.2 Significance

The management of a heritage places is based on an understanding of the values of that place. The NSW Heritage Council has adopted seven criteria for the assessment of heritage significance.¹⁸ There are two levels of significance in the NSW heritage management system: local and state. The criteria can also be complemented by a ranking of the individual elements of a place. Heritage NSW has developed guidelines for the assessment of historical archaeological sites and relics, as a specific type of environmental heritage. The guidelines suggest a series questions, linked to the seven significance criteria, to assist in understanding the broader significance of archaeological sites and relics (**Table 4**).

The overall heritage significance of Kincoppal-Rose Bay School has been assessed in the CMP. Although historical archaeology is not directly addressed, the following section of the statement of cultural significance is relevant:

Kincoppal-Rose Bay has Regional significance for its ability to demonstrate its continuing evolution and development, from its earliest Aboriginal occupation, to a privately owned, harbour-front residential estate (1851), and finally to a major private Catholic convent and educational institution since 1882, as demonstrated by the surviving sandstone rock shelter, group of cohesive sandstone buildings including Claremont, Main School Building, Chapel, South Wing and Novitiate Wing (1928), and the cemetery, all located within a parkland setting with borrowed views over the harbour. Claremont, as the historic core of the site, has historic significance at a local level for its ability to demonstrate the 1830s subdivision of the Vaucluse estate, as one of few harbour-front properties that remains largely within its original boundaries and retains its harbour front setting. Remnant fabric from the earliest residence at the site dating from 1851 has exceptional significance as evidence of the earliest development at the site.¹⁹

This discussion bears on the archaeological research potential of the school, and the ability to demonstrate the past through archaeological remains (Key Themes 1 & 4, **Table 4**). The available information suggests that any historical archaeological remains within the proposed development footprints are unlikely to provide important information relating to the history of the school property. Development from the pre-1882 period, which is more poorly documented, appears to be limited to internal paths or tracks, and any evidence of these is likely to have been substantially affected by subsequent works. Development from the post-1882 period appears largely to comprise

¹⁸ Heritage Office and Heritage Council 2001

¹⁹ Design 5 Architects 2020a: 104

relatively insubstantial structures and landscaping features, which again will have been impacted by subsequent development.

The exception is the potential remains of *The Poplars*; this was a more substantial structure and it is possible that some elements have survived the demolition and impact from construction of the Barat Burn Junior School and toilet block. The CMP includes an assessment of the heritage significance of the Sundial Terrace, which represents the surviving western yard of The Poplars:

The Sundial Terrace, at the rear of Barat Burn, is of local significance as a rare example of the domestic work of the Melocco Brothers, and as remnant of the former Melocco villa known as the “Poplars”, and includes the mosaic, sundial, balustrade and remnant part of the rendered boundary wall with intricate decorative moulding. The broader Kincoppal-Rose Bay site has historic significance for its long association with the Melocco brothers, who implemented much of the landscaping of the grounds for the pleasure of both students and sisters / novitiates during the Inter War period.

This discussion bears on associations with individuals of historical importance and aesthetic significance (Key Themes 2 & 3, **Table 4**). However, the identified significance of the Sundial Terrace relates to the surviving elements of landscaping that are likely to have been designed by the Melocco brothers. Any surviving remains of the house itself are unlikely to reveal any design elements that cannot be determined by the available documentary evidence.

In summary, the nature of the historical archaeological remains that are likely to be present within the proposed development footprints indicates that they are not of heritage significance at a local or State level.

Table 4. Key themes and questions to assist with significance assessment of archaeological sites

1	Archaeological research potential (NSW Heritage Criterion E).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To which contexts (historical, archaeological and research-based) is it anticipated that the site will yield important information? • Is the site likely to contain the mixed remains of several occupations and eras, or is it expected that the site has the remains of a single occupation or a short time-period? • Is the site rare or representative in terms of the extent, nature, integrity and preservation of the deposits (if known)? • Are there a large number of similar sites? • Is this type of site already well-documented in the historical record? • Has this site type already been previously investigated with results available? • Is the excavation of this site likely to enhance or duplicate the data set?
2	Associations with individuals, events or groups of historical importance (NSW Heritage Criteria A, B & D).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the archaeological site link to any NSW Historic Themes? Will the site contain ‘relics’ and remains which may illustrate a significant pattern in State or local history? • Is the site widely recognised? • Does the site have symbolic value? • Is there a community of interest (past or present) which identifies with, and values the specific site? Is the site likely to provide material expression of a particular event or cultural identity? • Is the site associated with an important person? (the role of the person in State or local history must be demonstrated/known)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the strength of association between the person and the site? • Did the person live or work at the site? During the phase of their career for which they are most recognised? Is that likely to be evident in the archaeology /physical evidence of the site? • Did a significant event or discovery take place at the site? Is that evident/or likely to be evident in the archaeology/physical evidence of the site?
3	Aesthetic or technical significance (NSW Heritage Criterion C).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the site/is the site likely to have aesthetic value? • Does the site/is the site likely to embody distinctive characteristics? • Does the site/is the site likely to embody a distinctive architectural or engineering style or pattern/layout? • Does the site demonstrate a technology which is the first or last of its kind? • Does the site demonstrate a range of, or change in, technology?
4	Ability to demonstrate the past through archaeological remains (NSW Heritage Criteria A, C, F & G).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the site contain well-preserved or rare examples of technologies or occupations which are typical of particular historic periods or eras of particular significance? • Was it a long-term or short-term use? • Does the site demonstrate a short period of occupation and therefore represents only a limited phase of the operations of a site or technology or site? Or does the site reflect occupation over a long period? • Does the site demonstrate continuity or change? • Are the remains at the site highly intact, legible and readily able to be interpreted?

4 Potential historical archaeological impact

4.1 Proposed development

The proposed works assessed in this report are divided into two packages: Detailed Development and Concept Development. The works are described in Section 7 of the Heritage Impact Statement.²⁰ For the most part, the works involve modifications to existing structures, and will not require ground disturbance. The proposed works that will involve ground disturbance are summarised in **Table 5**, with the footprints are indicated in **Figure 27**.

4.2 Potential impact

The documentary evidence indicates that fragmentary remains of the following features may be present within the proposed development footprints:

- Precinct A
 - Early Learning Centre Extension
 - Privy (1907 - 1990s)
 - Traffic management
 - Path from Claremont House to the waterfront (c.1850 - c.1933)
 - Garden shelter (1910 to at least the 1930s)
 - Carpenter's workshop (moved to this location in 1887)
 - Unknown structure (1935-61 until the 1980s or 1990s)
 - Barat Burn Junior School
 - The Poplars (1929 - 1960s)
- Precinct B
 - Main forecourt, traffic management
 - Entrance drive to Claremont House
 - Earlier phases of the forecourt layout
 - Bus and car parking
 - Conservatory (1890s: moved in 1932; demolished 1950s)
- Precinct C
 - Boarding accommodation building
 - Vegetable garden (1930s - 1960s)

The proposed works are likely to result in the complete removal of any remains. However, as noted above, it is unlikely that potential historical archaeological remains are of heritage significance, and would therefore not be relics as defined and protected by the Heritage Act.

²⁰ Design 5 Architects 2020b: 19-39

Table 5. Summary of the proposed works that involve ground disturbance

Precinct	Development	Proposed works
Detailed Development		
A	Early Learning Centre Extension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of a new two-storey classroom building, with a joint entry to the existing Early Learning Centre • Landscaping works surrounding the existing Early Learning Centre and proposed extension and Sophie's Cottage, including removal of the existing improvements and construction of a series of grassed terraces formed by sandstone retaining walls
A	Barat Burn Junior School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demolition of the existing toilet block in the northern courtyard • construction of new landscaped playground within the northern courtyard • Landscaping works in the Sundial Terrace, including terracing and modifications to the baluster • Modifications to the outdoor play area to the west
A	Traffic management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widening of the existing vehicle entry on Vaucluse Road, and modifications to the internal roadway • Creation of a new vehicle entry on Vaucluse Road • Widening of the existing internal roadway located along the western side of the Noviceship Lawn • Construction of pedestrian bridge over the internal road, between the SHEM Building and the Barat Burn Junior School
B	Main forecourt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of a vehicular drive from the Jubilee Gates to the Kincoppal Gates • Construction of pedestrian paths, grassed areas and garden beds • Enlargement of the existing sandstone landing and provision of new steps into the main building • construction of a sandstone ramp around the existing circular garden bed.

Precinct	Development	Proposed works
B	Traffic management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of pick-up and drop-off areas • Modification to existing internal road • Widening of vehicle exit road to Vaucluse Road
B	Bus and car parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of a two level bus and car parking area. Due to the slope of the land down towards the south, the structure is excavated into the landform on the northern side, and cantilevered over the existing ground level at the southern side.
Concept Development		
C	Boarding accommodation building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of a new building to the east of the Boarding Staff Accommodation, and to the north of Sheldon House

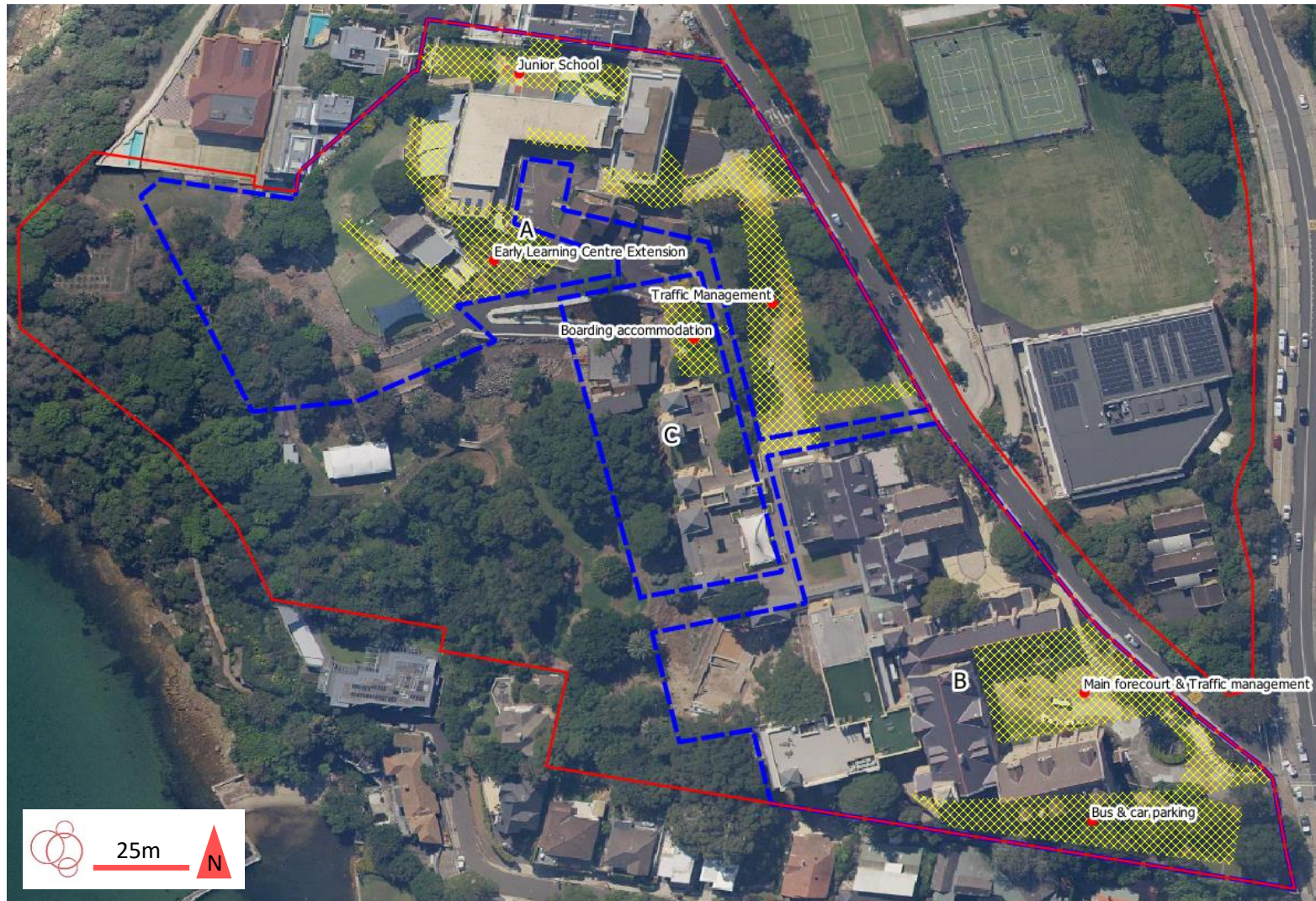


Figure 27. The study area showing the approximate extent of the proposed works that involve ground disturbance.

5 Our conclusions and recommendations

It is unlikely that the proposed development will result in impact to archaeological relics, being archaeological remains of local or State significance, as defined in the Heritage Act. There are no requirements for further historical archaeological investigations prior to the proposed works. However, we have provided recommendations to address the possibility for changes in the development footprint during detailed design, and to address the statutory protection of any unexpected relics that may be found.

5.1 Our recommendations

We have based our recommendations on:

- the research and conclusions of our assessment as outlined in this report
- the legal protections provided to historical archaeological relics under the *Heritage Act 1977*
- current policy and regulatory requirements relating to the management of historical archaeology, and in particular the relevant provisions of the Woollahra LEP 2014 and the Kincoppal-Rose Bay School Conservation Management Plan.

We recommend that:

1. Once detailed design for each element is finalised, and if ground disturbance is required, the potential for historical archaeological impact should be checked against this report:
 - a. If the extent of disturbance has been increased, or the location has been altered, the potential for historical archaeological impact should be assessed.
 - b. If the extent and location of disturbance is unchanged, no further historical archaeological investigations are required, and the work may proceed with caution.
2. Historical archaeological relics within the study area remain protected by the Heritage Act. If any historical archaeological relics, or possible relics, are identified during construction, site workers must:
 - a. Not further disturb or move these remains
 - b. Immediately cease all work at the location
 - c. Seek advice from Heritage NSW and/or an archaeologist with relevant experience
 - d. Not recommence any work at the location unless authorised in writing by Heritage NSW.
3. Copies of this report should be forwarded to the Heritage Library, Heritage NSW; and to the Woollahra Library Local Studies Collection.

6 References

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