Prince of Wales Hospital
NCCC & AATC Development

Results of Archaeological Testing for European Remains

Report to

WorleyParsons

On behalf of

Thinc Projects

May 2012

Casey & Lowe Pty Ltd
Archaeology and Heritage Consultants
420 Marrickville Road, Marrickville NSW 2204
ABN: 32 101 370 129
(02) 9568 5375
(02) 9572 8409

CASEY + LOWE
ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE

Executive Summary

Results

No European archaeological structures, cuts, or deposits were found in any of the eight test trenches. Some ceramics were identified that were possibly originally associated with the mid-late nineteenth-century or early twentieth-century occupation of the site but these were found in mixed fills and did not have secure contexts. Some cuts or impressions were identified in the natural sands at the base of Trenches 1 and 2 that were of an uncertain interpretation or date. The most likely interpretation is that they were created by machine during relatively recent landscaping works, although some of the marks may also have been gardening features from an earlier occupation of the cottage.

Recommendations

Based on the results of the testing program it is recommended that:

1. No further European archaeological work is required for Stage 1 or Stage 2 of the NCCC & AATC development.
2. Should any possible archaeological remains be uncovered during the bulk excavation for the development, they should be assessed by a qualified archaeologist.

CONTENTS

Executive Summary

Document Status

Name	Date	Purpose	Author	Reviewed
DRAFT Issue	11 May 2012	Draft issue for comment	NH	TL
Final	22 June 2012	Final issue	NH	TL
Final v2	23 August 2012	Amended final issue	NH	TL
Final v3	9 April 2013	Change of project name	NH	TL

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

Casey & Lowe have been engaged by WorleyParsons on behalf of Thinc Projects to conduct European archaeological testing for Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the construction of the *Nelune Comprehensive Cancer Centre and Australian Advanced Treatment Centre (NCCC & AATC)* at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick. Stage 1 involves bulk excavation for an underground treatment area and access tunnel in the vicinity of the Edmund Blacket Building and the Superintendent's Residence (Figure 1). These buildings were formerly used for the Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum and were built in the 1850s and 1860s respectively. Stage 2 involves the demolition of the existing Building 3 and the construction of the remainder of the NCCC & AATC building.

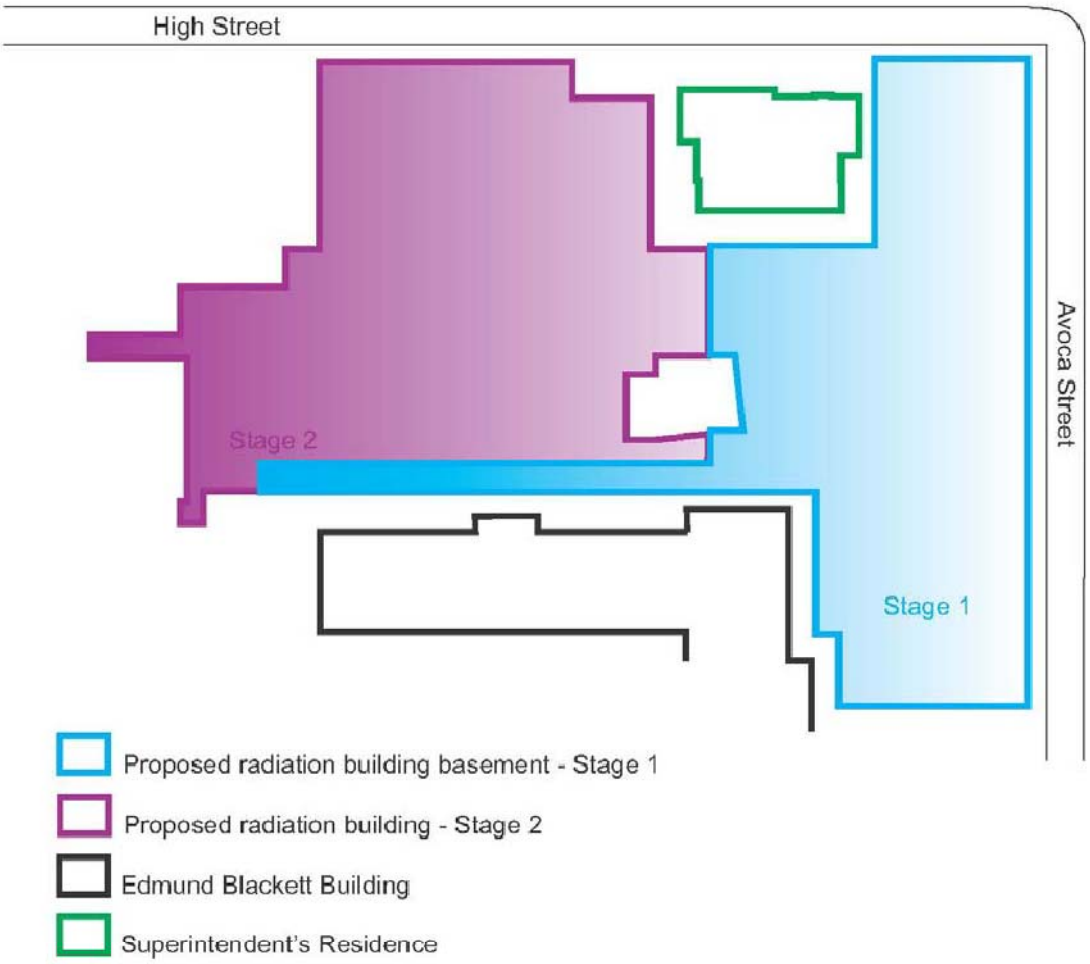

Figure 1: Outline of the development areas and heritage buildings. Source: Casey & Lowe March 2012.

An European archaeological assessment was prepared for the development that recommended a testing program.[1] It found that:

[1] Casey & Lowe March 2012, *European Archaeological Assessment, Corner of Avoca and High Streets, Prince of Wales Hospital Complex, Randwick*, report to WorleyParsons.

1. Our research has indicated that there was no substantial known occupation within the study area until 1858 and the main structures of the Superintendent's Residence (1867) and the Destitute Children's Asylum are still extant.
2. This Archaeological Assessment has established that most of the current study area has limited archaeological potential.

    - Stage 1 development area has some potential to contain remains of such as wells/cisterns, cesspits and rubbish pits. Impacts in this area appear to be limited to making of a bitumen carpark. These have the potential to be of local significance.
    - Stage 2 development area is substantially affected by the 1970s building and basement which will have removed all archaeology within its footprint. There is some limited potential for archaeology to the west of the Superintendent's Residence.

Three archaeological test trenches were excavated around the Superintendent's Cottage to establish the presence or absence of any outbuildings, deposits, or features in the yard area contemporary with the mid to late nineteenth-century occupation of the asylum. These trenches were also used in the indigenous archaeological testing program which included several more trenches to the south and southeast. These latter trenches were monitored for European remains as well.

1.2 Study Area

The archaeological testing took place in the immediate surrounds of the Superintendent's Cottage and car park area to the south. This area is on the corner of High and Avoca streets, Randwick (Figure 1). The cottage is surrounded by lawn area with some trees and other plantings. There is an enclosed compound to the east which along with the car park to the south is surfaced with bitumen.

1.3 Statutory Constraints and Previous Assessments[2]

The Prince of Wales Hospital NCCC & AATC project has been approved under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The Director General's Requirements include:

7. Heritage

.....

- Consideration of the archaeological potential of the area and potential impact of the proposal on the archaeological significance of the site in accordance with the guidelines of the Heritage Council of NSW.

Casey & Lowe assessed the European archaeological potential of the site and made the following recommendations:

1. An archaeological research design and appropriate methodology will need to be written to guide any archaeological program for the site.
2. Testing to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains may be undertaken as part of the Environmental Assessment but the archaeology could not be removed prior to approval being granted by the Minister for Planning under a SSDA. Such testing could not be commenced until DGRs were received by the proponent.
3. A S140 application to the Heritage Branch, OEH could be applied for in relation to the proposed works to excavate, record and remove the remains prior to approval SSD under

[2] See Casey & Lowe March 2012, pp. 2-6 for more comprehensive breakdown of the relevant statutory context.

Part 4, Division 4.1. Discussions should be held with the Heritage Branch, OEH, about this as soon as possible.

4. A report will need to be written outlining the results of the archaeological program. If artefact deposits are found these will need to be catalogued and analysed as part of the archaeological reporting. This is in accordance with Heritage Council guidelines.
5. The qualified archaeologist who directs the archaeological program needs to be able to hold a permit under the Heritage Council, Excavation Director Guidelines.

1.4 Authorship and Excavation Team

The archaeological testing was undertaken by Nick Harrop (Casey & Lowe Pty Ltd) under the direction of Tony Lowe (Director, Casey & Lowe Pty Ltd). Machine excavation used for the archaeological testing was facilitated by Durkin. This report was written by Nick Harrop and reviewed by Tony Lowe.

2.0 Brief Historical Background and Archaeological Potential[3]

2.1 Historical Background

2.1.1 The Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum

The history of the Prince of Wales Hospital site has been well documented elsewhere (especially in the Conservation Management Plan of the hospital site undertaken by Graham Brooks and Associates 1997).[4]

The current hospital site was contained within the property of Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum between 1852 and 1915. The Destitute Children's Society was formed in 1852 after a public meeting resulted in the formation of a committee. The objectives of the committee were to establish an Asylum and a public appeal was made for donations. The establishment was originally located at Ormond House, in Paddington, from 1853. In 1855 a public inquiry condemned the management and work of the Asylum, making its relocation crucial. Later in that year 60 acres were granted for this purpose in Randwick.

The plan for the site involved two separate blocks designed by Edmund Blacket. One of these would act as the Asylum itself, and the other as a model farm, creating a self-supporting institution designed to 're-educate' the children within it through hard work and separation from the vices of the inner city.

The Asylum was largely completed by February 1857 and occupied by March 1858. During this time the land in the immediate vicinity of the Asylum buildings, with the support of local nursery-men, was planted with trees, ornamental shrubs, and vegetables. Land further to the south was deemed inappropriate for cultivation and abandoned. With the model farm located outside the original grant, to the south, the majority of the property was unused. Part of it was utilised as a cemetery and a quarry was located close to Avoca Street. The Asylum produced its own bread and milk, so presumably a dairy were also located within the grounds.

Throughout the 1860s the Asylum expanded with the support of the government, largely through subsidies, private donations and the money raised from the parents of children housed in the Asylum. This led to the construction of the Superintendent's Residence in 1867 and the commissioning of a hospital. However, accepted standards for the care of children placed in facilities like the Randwick Asylum, were changing. The "work house" ethic was being supplanted by policy that encouraged the placement of children within families. In 1873 a Royal Commission was appointed to inquire into the Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum with particular focus on the large size of the establishment and the absence of a family setting. In 1876 the way the Asylum operated changed dramatically. The dairy herds and large crops were reduced and public schools established. There were further extensions to existing buildings and in 1879 the receiving house was constructed after an outbreak of opthalmia highlighted the need for an isolation ward.

[3] Modified from Casey & Lowe March 2012, pp. 8-25.

[4] Graham Brooks and Associates Pty Ltd, *Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick, Conservation Management Plan*, report for NSW Department of Health, August 1997.

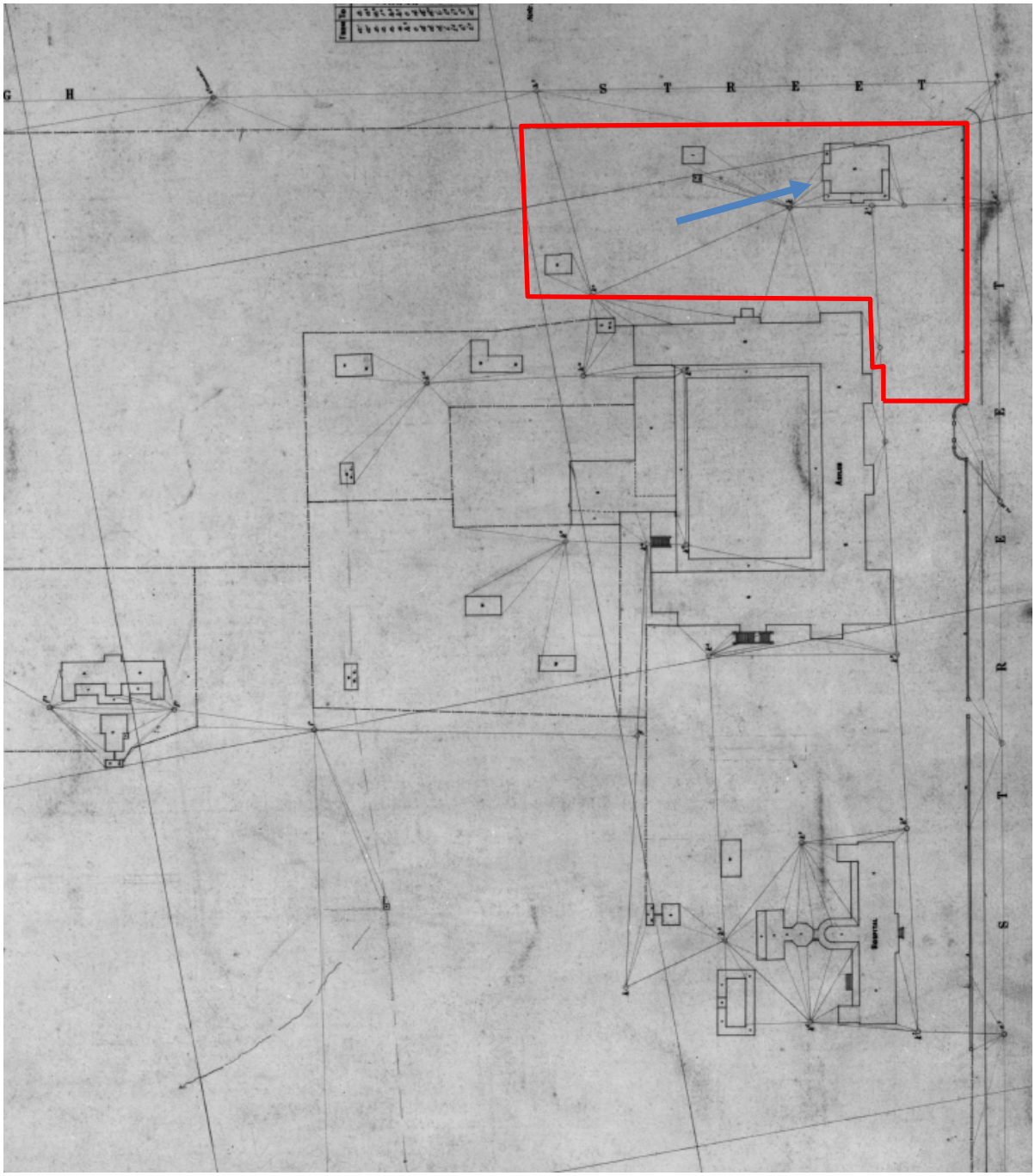

Figure 2: Plan of the Asylum in 1891 with the study area outlined. Sydney Water Board plans archive. The current study area is outlind in red. The Superintendent's Residence is arrowed.

The Asylum remained under close scrutiny and in 1881 the NSW Government passed the State Children's Relief Act, intended to replace the old barrack system with foster care. Although the Asylum continued to operate as before, constant criticism of methods and facilities led to the withdrawal of approximately 600 children that had been subsidised by the government. This meant that all government funding was removed and the Asylum had to rely on private funding to maintain the Asylum. The removal of such a large number of children required the reorganisation of the whole institution within a greatly reduced budget. In the later years of the 19th century, with further reduction in the number of children housed at the Asylum, and the resumption of much of the land used for gardens, an alternative use for the site began to be discussed. Its location within the thriving suburb of Randwick led to the subdivision of much of the original grant.

The hospital buildings underwent regular maintenance throughout the late 1800s and early 1900s despite insecurities over the future of the site. The limited water supply was of particular concern and a deep bore was drilled in 1882 to ensure the water supply, although it was brackish and unusable. With the continued decline in numbers and increasing amounts of vacant space within the Asylum buildings the directors offered the southern portion of the main building for military use after the outbreak of war in 1914. Although some children remained at the Asylum in 1915 it was officially closed in 1916.

2.1.2 The Superintendent's Residence

The Superintendent's Residence is located on the north-eastern corner of the Prince of Wales Hospital complex on the site of an earlier building with the same use which was demolished in 1860.[5] No additional references to this building have been found, and a structure is not located in this location on any maps from the period prior to 1860. The current Superintendent's Residence was constructed during a period of substantial growth for the Destitute Children's Asylum. The building was designed by J. Horbury Hunt and it was probably the first building he designed in Australia. In the same year he was also commissioned to prepare a design for a hospital for the Asylum (Edmund Blacket's design had been rejected).[6]

After a period of decline associated with the gradual decline of the entire Asylum site, an injection of money into the site meant that the Superintendent's Residence received new guttering in 1913. The building would originally have been surrounded by formal lawns to the east with formal hedges and flowering shrubs. A photograph from 1909 (Figure 3) shows tiled garden edging, a lawn sculpture and a large Eucalypt.

[5] Randwick Heritage Study, Prince of Wales Hospital Superintendent's Residence.

[6] Graham Brooks and Associates Pty Ltd, *Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick, Conservation Management Plan*, report for NSW Department of Health, August 1997, 11.

3.0 Archaeological Potential

3.1 Description of Site

The site is a rectangular area encompassing the land to the north of the Edmund Blacket Building (1858), the Superintendent's Residence (1867) and the Radiotherapy Building (1970s) (Figure 1). The Superintendent's Residence maintains some mature plantings directly around the building, and these have been maintained, along with lawns, in the space between the Residence and the Edmund Blacket Building. The 1970s radiotherapy building extends almost to the rear of the Superintendent's Residence, and some mature/partially mature plantings and lawn have been retained in this location. The 1970s buildings to the west which are to be demolished as part of Stage 2 have a basement which is likely to be have removed any potential archaeological resource in this area.

Figure 3: Superintendent's Residence, c1909. Source: Trove.

Sydney Water survey plans from the 1890s provide more detail. A surveyor's field book from 1890 depicts three buildings located to the west of the Superintendent's Residence. One of the buildings is identified as being a brick water closet. Just to the north of this is a structure listed as being made of iron (corrugated iron). Further to the west of these two structures is a wooden building. The location of these is shown on the final 1891 plan depicting the brick and iron buildings but not the wooden structure (Figure 4).

By 1918 there were military wards to the west of the residence but only landscaping to the south. These ward buildings are within the footprint of the 1970s basement which will have removed the evidence within most of the Stage 2 building footprint. The wards were removed by 1945 when this area was open space. By 1943 and 1945 there was a garage, gardener's shed and harness room to the west and south of the residence and north of the Asylum building with landscaping to the east with large trees and path (Figure 5).

Figure 4: Detail of 1891 Randwick, Sheet 37, Sydney Water Plan showing the location of two structures to the west of the Superintendent's Residence, water closet and iron shed, are within the 1970s basement area. Sydney Water plans archive with Casey & Lowe overlay.

None of these plans show the location of cisterns, cesspits, rubbish pits or wells, all of which are likely to be within the grounds of the residence. These types of features are occasionally shown on plans but have not been found to date. Typically, these type of features contain artefacts associated with the occupation of the site and would be located within the rear yard of the

residence but as there is little ground to the north it is difficult to be sure if these are to the west or east. The presence of the garage, shed and harness room to the west may indicate that the western area was being used as the 'backyard'.

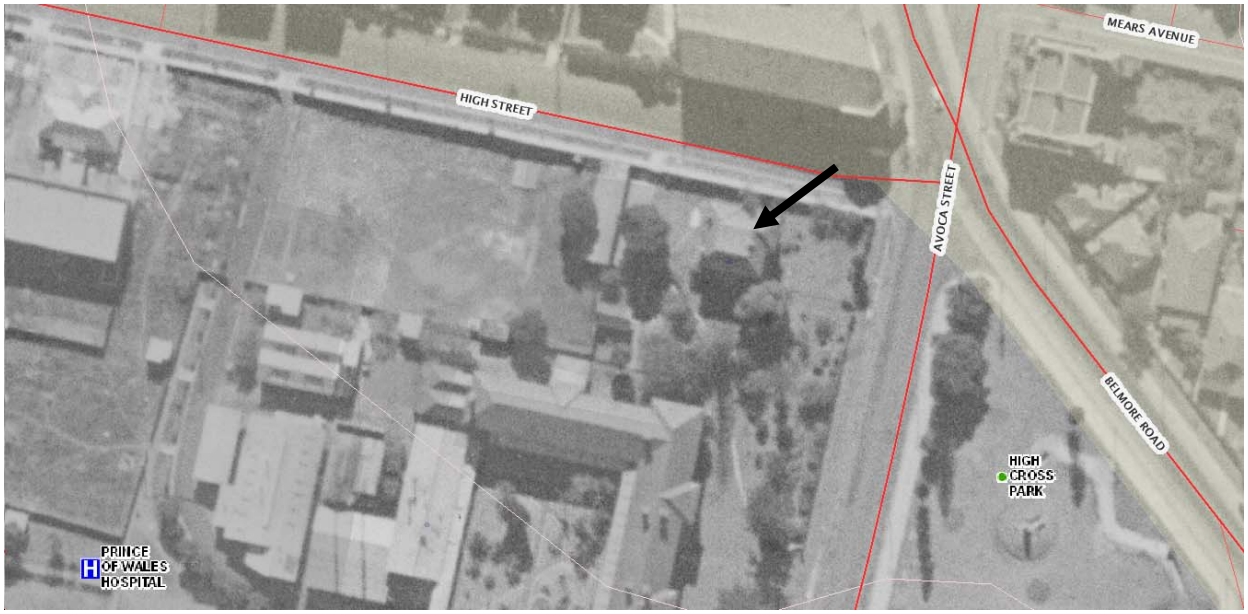

Figure 5: 1943 aerial showing the Superintendent's Residence and Asylum buildng with the garage building to the west and a small strucutre possibly associated with the wards (demolished). The harness room and gardener's shed on the 1945 plan are also visible on this plan. The Superintendent's Residence is arrowed. Source: Lands Department.

3.2 Known Impacts

The 1970s existing cancer treatment building has an extensive basement which will have removed the archaeology within its footprint (Figure 1). The potential archaeology within the footprint of this basement consisted of the remains of the 1890 water closet and iron shed, wards shown on the 1918 plan, and structures shown on the 1945 plan, a garage, gardener's shed and harness room.

Bitumen carpark surfaces typically involve the levelling of the area with some compaction, the laying down of blue metal base for drainage. This will have impacts on shallow garden soils and garden layout but deeper subsurface features may survive.

3.3 Summary of Archaeological Potential

There is limited potential for archaeological remains on the corner of Avoca and High Streets, the northeastern corner of the Prince of Wales Hospital site. This area of the original land granted to the Society for Destitute Children appears to only ever have been occupied by the Superintendent's Residence and some associated buildings. The residence itself was identified as having high significance in the Prince of Wales CMP but the immediate area was not classified as having significance archaeologically.[7] The history of the building prepared for the Randwick Heritage Study does state that the extant building occupies the location of the original superintendent's residence,

[7] Graham Brooks and Associates, 1997.

demolished in 1860 but no plans for this have been identified.[8] The provenance of this original building is unclear and it is not shown on any pre-1860s maps that have been reviewed for this archaeological assessment. This lack of evidence suggests that any earlier residence did not exist for a long period of time and is unlikely to have been a substantial structure. The Randwick Heritage Study suggests that the current residence was constructed in the same location as the earlier building, and it is possible that any remains would be contained within the current building's footprint.

Based on the evidence to hand, it is unlikely that buildings were located in the vicinity of the study area prior to the construction of those associated with the Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children in 1856. A plan of the area from 1858 shows the land to be vacant except for the main Asylum building, the current Edmund Blacket building**.**

It is possible that an earlier building existed on the site of the Superintendent's Residence but some or all of this is likely to be contained within the footprint of the extant 1867 sandstone building. It is also possible that structures associated with the early occupation of the Superintendent's Residence such as cesspits, well and/or cistern, or rubbish pits may survive around the property and may be disturbed as part of the proposed development. While a water closet was indicated as being within the 1970s building basement footprint, it is possible that earlier cesspits may be been elsewhere. Other possible archaeological relics within the development area are unidentified structures, drains, rubbish pits and garden elements.

[8] Randwick Heritage Study Inventory Sheet accessed via: http://www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/library/scripts/objectifyMedia.aspx?file=pdf/22/17.pdf&siteID=1&str_title=61%20High%20Street%20%28Super%20Residence%29.pdf.

4.0 Results

4.1 Overview

No European archaeological remains were found in the testing program. Some ceramics were detected that were possibly from the nineteenth or early twentieth-century occupation of the site, but these were not in a meaningful context. The soil profile in the trenches suggested substantial modification of the landscape into natural levels in the mid-late twentieth century. Any previous European archaeological remains most likely had been removed prior to the archaeological testing.

4.2 Methodology

Three archaeological trenches were excavated around the Superintendent's Cottage for the European archaeological program (Trenches 1-3, Figure 6). Potential yard features were targeted such as outbuildings, cesspits, cisterns, rubbish pits, postholes, garden beds, pathways, and/or yard surfaces. These trenches were utilised in the indigenous archaeological testing which also included five more trenches to the south and southeast (Trenches 4-6). Four of these were numbered in pairs (5 and 6) and later numbered 5A, 5B, 6A, and 6B. These were also monitored for European archaeological remains as well. The locations and lengths of many of the trenches were slightly altered from what had been originally planned due to the presence of services in several locations, as well as the general absence of remains.

The trenches were dug using a mechanical excavator with a batter-bucket. Three trenches (4, 5A, and 5B) required a saw-cut through the bitumen and excavation with a toothed-bucket through the road base. The trenches were excavated in level spits of c.100mm until natural sands were reached. In all cases there were no archaeological features encountered that required the excavation to halt before this level. The trenches were manually cleaned by the archaeologists at the end-levels, with further manual excavation done by the indigenous archaeologists into the natural.

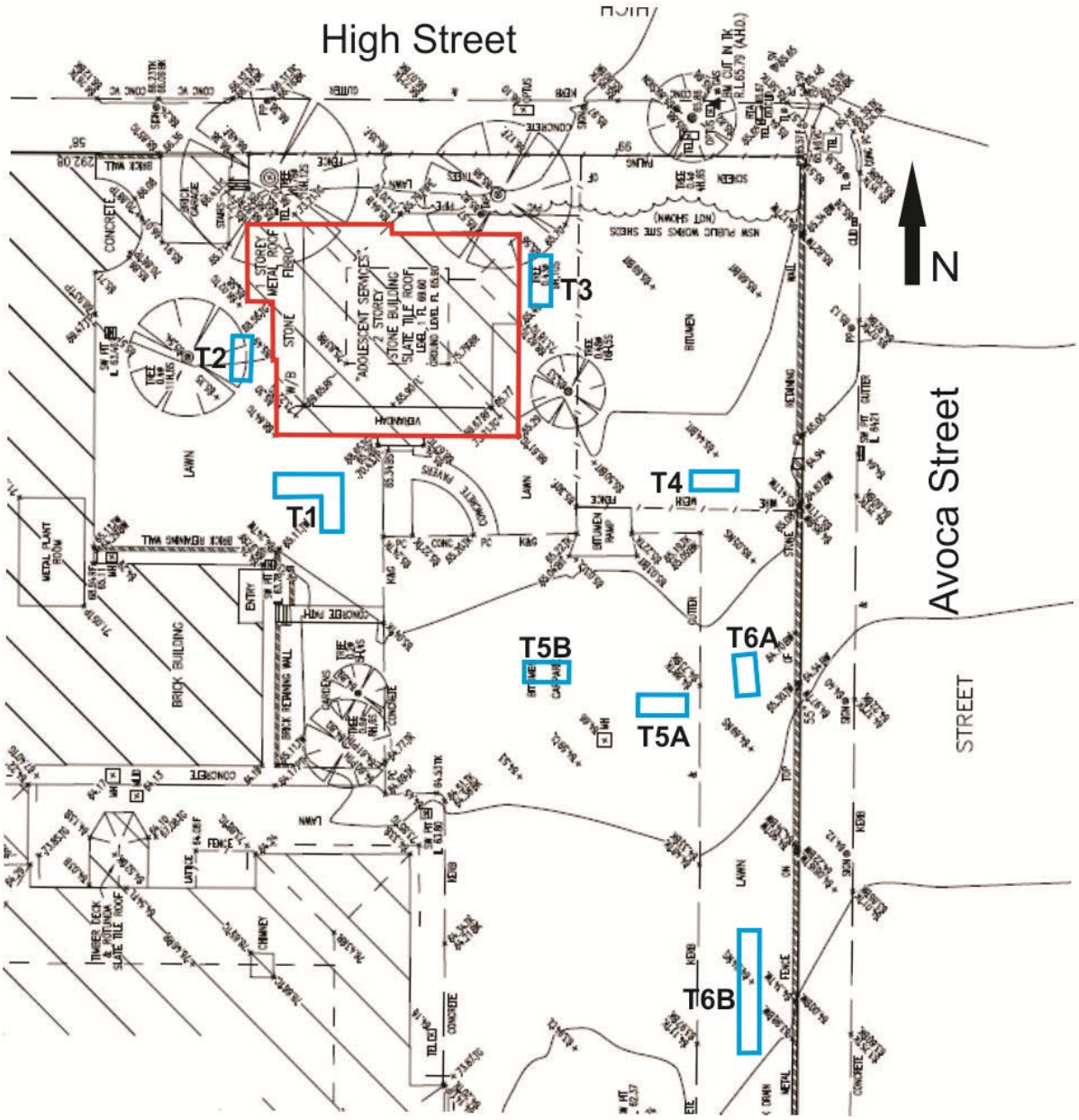

Figure 6: Plan of the area of archaeological testing. The blue rectangles indicate the test trenches as excavated. The Superintendent's Cottage is outlined in red.

4.3 Results

4.3.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was an L-shaped trench excavated to the south (front) of the cottage (Figure 6). The north-south oriented segment of the trench was 3.8m in length. The east-west segment was 4.5m long, substantially shorter than originally intended because of both the presence of services at the western end of the original trench and the absence of remains in this trench and Trench 2 nearby. Like all trenches, Trench 1 was 1.3m wide.

Figure 7: Trench 1 following machine excavation. Semi-regular marks can be seen in the natural sand at the base. Looking west, scale 1m.

The stratigraphy encountered was typical of that found in other trenches with some variation in fill thickness and the presence/absence of some minor fills (Figure 7). The upper 200mm-300mm was dark brown topsoil with a grass layer on top (Figure 8). This topsoil was found in trenches 2, 3, 6A, and 6B where it varied between 150mm and 300mm in thickness. The other trenches were surfaced with bitumen and there was no topsoil here. Beneath this, a c.50mm-thick layer of loose, black asphalt-like material was also common to the trenches. It was interpreted as a mid-late twentieth-century surface that predated the topsoil which was clearly imported. This surface was based on a compact, 120-150mm-thick layer of orange clayey sand with moderate amounts of sandstone mixed throughout. Again this layer was found elsewhere but it varied in colour between yellow, red, and grey and was between 50mm and 150mm thick. This 'preparation' layer to the asphalt surface was typically above either natural layers or redeposited / modified natural layers.

Below the preparation layer described above was a layer of grey sands with occasional, small sandstone gravels and charcoal flecking throughout, up to 100mm thick. This was likely the natural sand that had been mixed or levelled during the various activities that have taken place in the area over time. In some trenches this layer was absent. Bleached sands were under the grey sands and were interpreted as being natural. This layer had very few inclusions, with occasional sandstone, charcoal, and roots throughout. The bleached sands were atop undulating bedrock. In parts where the bedrock was high, the bleached sands were very thin (<50mm), but were up to 300mm+ thick where there were troughs in the bedrock. They were generally c.300mm thick in Trench 1.

No European archaeological remains were encountered in Trench 1. Regular marks in the natural sands were initially considered to have been possible garden features from the early occupation of the cottage. They were later interpreted as probable impressions from a roller used to compact the ground in preparation for the layer of asphalt in the mid-late twentieth century.

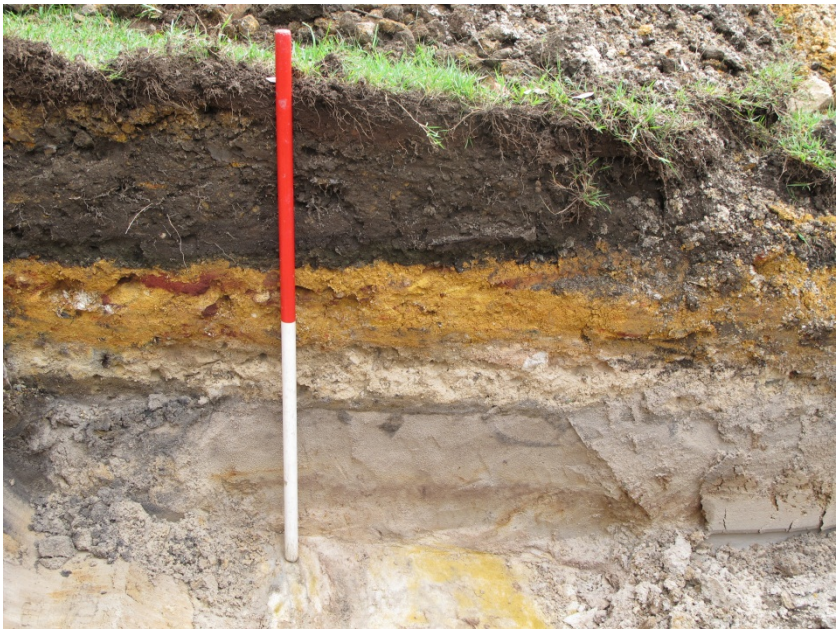

Figure 8: Typical stratigraphy in Trench 1. Scale 1m.

4.3.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was excavated immediately to the west of the cottage on a rough north-south axis (Figure 9). Services restricted the length of the trench that could be reduced to natural levels to 1.5m. They also forced a slight shift to the east of the trench so that it was almost adjacent to the footpath.

A very similar soil profile was encountered to that of Trench 1 (Figure 10). The topsoil was 150mm thick. The orange preparation layer for the asphalt surface was 100mm thick but the surface itself was absent, perhaps because this location was quite close to the cottage and the surface was different here. There were 150mm of mixed sands beneath this which were atop bleached sands. The bleached sands also contained regular marks that appeared to be a result of machine-work.

Figure 9: Beginning of excavation in Trench 2. View to the south.

Figure 10: Regular marks can be seen in this view of Trench 2 after the completion of machine excavation. Scale 1m.

4.3.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was dug just to the east of the Superintendent's Residence on a north-south axis (Figure 11). The northern 3.3m was excavated which was sufficient to establish the absence of archaeological remains in this area.

Figure 11: Mid-excavation view of Trench 3 to the north. Scale 1m.

Figure 12: The stratigraphy of Trench 3 can be seen in this view of the east-facing section. Scale 1m.