

The stratigraphy of Trench 3 was the same as that of Trench 1 (Figure 12). The main variation was that the orange surface-preparation layer was thinner here, being just 50mm thick.

4.3.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was situated to the east of the cottage near Avoca Street. It was within a compound that was surfaced with bitumen and road base. All the fills above the bedrock were imported and appeared to be quite recent, meaning that any nineteenth-century or early twentieth-century levels had been removed by the time of the archaeological testing.



Figure 13: Mid-excavation view of Trench 4 to the west. The bitumen and road base have just been removed. Scale 1m.

The upper 200mm of the trench consisted of bitumen and road base which was separated from earlier fills by a geofabric (Figures 13, 14). Below this was c.100mm of greenish-grey sandy clay that did not appear elsewhere. The black asphalt surface and orange preparation layer appeared below this but the commonality with the stratigraphy found elsewhere was limited to these two layers. Only a heavy grey clay was between the base of the orange layer and bedrock. The latter appeared to have been levelled by machine at some stage.



Figure 14: The south-facing section of Trench 4.

4.3.5 Trench 5

Trenches 5A and 5B were excavated in the car park to the south of the cottage (Figure 15). While they were different in some aspects they had the same basic stratigraphy and neither contained any archaeological remains. Trench 5A was 3.25m long and 5B was 2.8m in length.

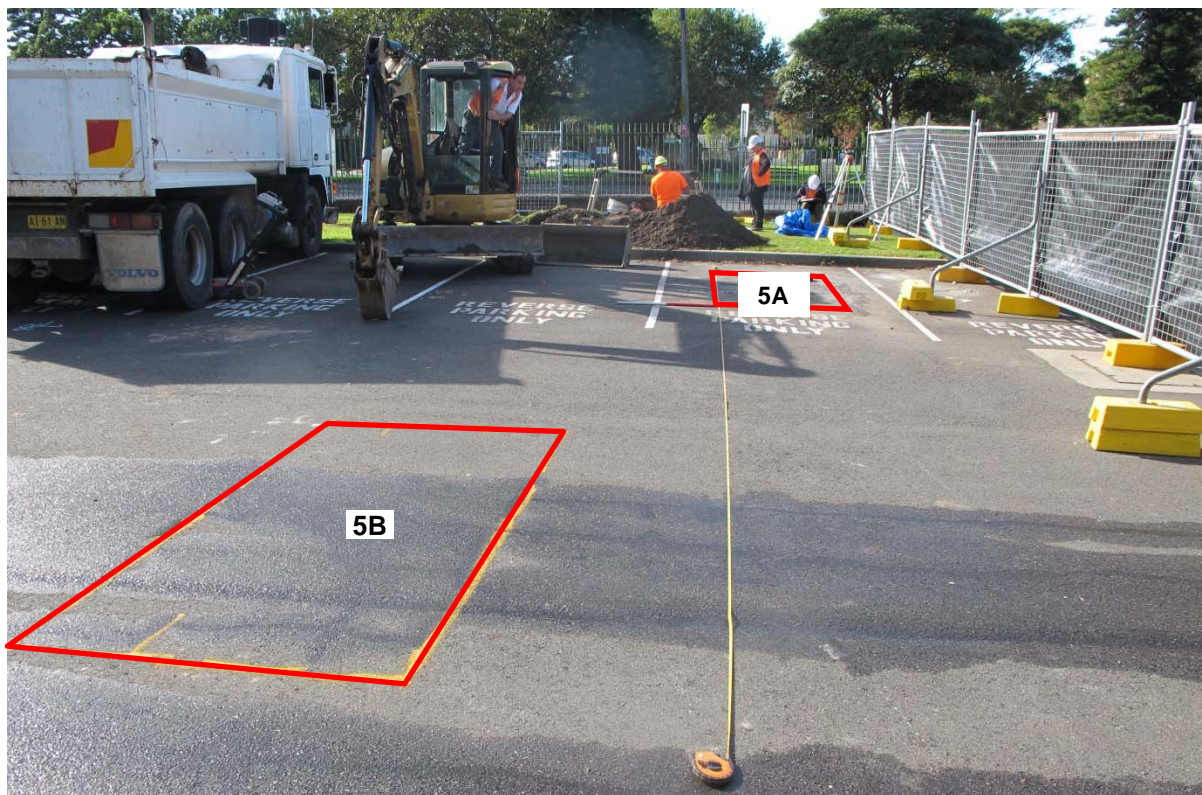


Figure 15: Locations of Trenches 5A and 5B (pre-excavation). View is to the east with Trench 6A being excavated in the background and Avoca Street beyond this.

As with Trench 4, there was a bitumen surface and road base but it was c.250mm-thick in the car park. The earlier black asphalt surface was remnant in 5B but not 5A (Figure 16, Figure 17). The orange surface-preparation layer was present in 5A where it was 100mm-150mm thick. In 5B the preparation layer was greyish-brown in colour with moderate sandstone inclusions. Bleached sand was found above bedrock in the base of both trenches. Trench 5A was largely disrupted by service trenches running through it.



Figure 16: This view of the northwest corner of Trench 5A shows part of the cut of a service trench (right side) as well as another service that partly intruded into the trench.



Figure 17: Part of the north-facing section of Trench 5B.

4.3.6 Trench 6

Trenches 6A and 6B were excavated along the grassy strip between the car park and the western side of Avoca Street (Figure 6). The lengths of the trenches were altered substantially from what had been proposed. 6A was shortened to 2.8m due to services. Trench 6B was lengthened to 8m

partly to compensate for 6A and also because it was deemed more likely to have a greater deposit of intact natural sands based on what had been seen in other trenches.



Figure 18: View to the southeast of the indigenous archaeological investigation in Trench 6A.



Figure 19: The typical stratigraphy in Trench 6A can be seen in this portion of the west-facing section.

While both Trenches 6A and 6B had a similar stratigraphy to each other and the other archaeological trenches, 6B had substantially thicker fills and natural soils (Figures 20, 21). The typical stratigraphy was found here of topsoil, asphalt surface, surface-preparation layer, mixed sands, intact bleached sands, and finally bedrock. The surface-preparation layer was yellowish brown in Trench 6A rather than the orange encountered in most other trenches and in 6B it was grey clayey sand with moderate sandstone, not dissimilar to that found in 5B. The bleached sands in Trench 6B were 700mm thick. Other than two fragments of ceramics on the surface of the mixed sands in 6A, no archaeological remains were found in either trench.



Figure 20: North-facing view of Trench 6B. Scale 1m.



Figure 21: This image of the east-facing section of Trench 6B demonstrates the greater thickness of fills and natural sands in this location.

5.0 Conclusions

5.1 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.

5.2 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.