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ARCHAEOLOGY - HERITAGE - MEDIATION - ARBITRATION

244 CLEVELAND STREET, SURRY HILLS

Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment for a Review of Environmental Factors

PREPARED BY	TORY STENING AND ALANDRA TASIRE
REPORT TO	ROOT PARTNERSHIPS ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LGA	CITY OF SYDNEY COUNCIL
VERSION NO	A.2017
DATE	MAY 2017

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was written by Alandra Tasire, B.A. Honours, Archaeologist, and Tory Stening, B.A., M.A (Archaeology), and edited by Jillian Comber BA, Litt.B.

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of Education (DoE) propose to redevelop the former Cleveland Street Primary School (also known as the Cleveland Street Intensive English High School) into a new inner city comprehensive high school with 1,200 places. Due to limited availability of land in high density areas, DoE proposes to construct one of the State's flagship high-rise public schools on the site.

A staged authority approval for the development of the inner Sydney high school (ISHS) project will be undertaken as follows:

1) **Review of Environmental Factors (REF)** for DoE approval. Scope of the REF includes removal of selected trees, site services isolation, demolition of Building 4 (1960's building) and all connecting bridge links on the site, construction of temporary works (for on-site truck turning, hoardings, site amenities, support gantry's and site services connections). Works also to include in this REF but which may be undertaken during the Main Works is the removal of hazardous material and the services strip out of buildings 1,2 and 3.

2) **State Significant Development (SSD)** for DPE approval. Includes all other works required to complete the ISHS project.

Root Partnerships on behalf of the DoE have commissioned Comber Consultants to prepare this Aboriginal archaeological due diligence report to inform the Stage 1 REF and to ensure the best practice management of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Office of Environment & Heritage's (OEH's) *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW.*

This assessment includes an Aboriginal history of the former Cleveland Street Public School, the results of a site inspection, a review of the environmental and archaeological background of the study area and the Aboriginal heritage significance of the subject area. This report has been written in accordance with the Office of Environment & Heritage's *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW.*

The study area is within a traditional Aboriginal ceremonial and hunting ground and contains Aboriginal significance values and archaeological potential.

This report makes the following recommendations:

1. Demolition of Building 4: The building can be demolished to the slab. In respect of removal of the slab, the geotechnical investigations indicate that the western side of the site, where Building 4 is located, contains approximately 1.5m of fill. Removal of the slab should be undertaken under the supervision of an archaeologist to ensure that the natural ground surface is not disturbed. The footings should not be removed without an AHIP.

2. In respect of removal of selected trees, excavation or ground disturbance should not occur to remove the trees. The trees should be cut and the stumps ground to existing ground level.

3. Any excavation for temporary works which will include ground disturbance or excavation such as services connection or for construction of a turning bay should be monitored by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist to ensure that such disturbance is only within introduced fill and that the natural ground surface is not disturbed.

4. An Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit will not be required for the works detailed in this report. If the scope of works change, a further assessment of those works should be undertaken.

5. If any previously undetected Aboriginal objects are unexpectedly uncovered all work must cease in the vicinity of that object whilst further advice is being sought from the consultant and the Department of Environment & Heritage.

6. All employees, contractors and subcontractors engaged on this project should be provided with an induction outlining the significance of the site and their responsibilities under the *National Parks & Wildlife Act*.

CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND
LOCATION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

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1.2 Location

The former Cleveland Street Public School, 244 Cleveland Street, Surry Hills is located immediately south-east of the Sydney Central Business District (Figure 1) in the Local Government Area of the City of Sydney. It is located on the north west corner of Cleveland and Chalmers Streets, and is bound by Prince Alfred Park to the north and east (Figure 2). The site comprises three parcels of land, known as Lot 1 DP 797483, Lot 1 DP 797484 and Lot 8 DP 821649.

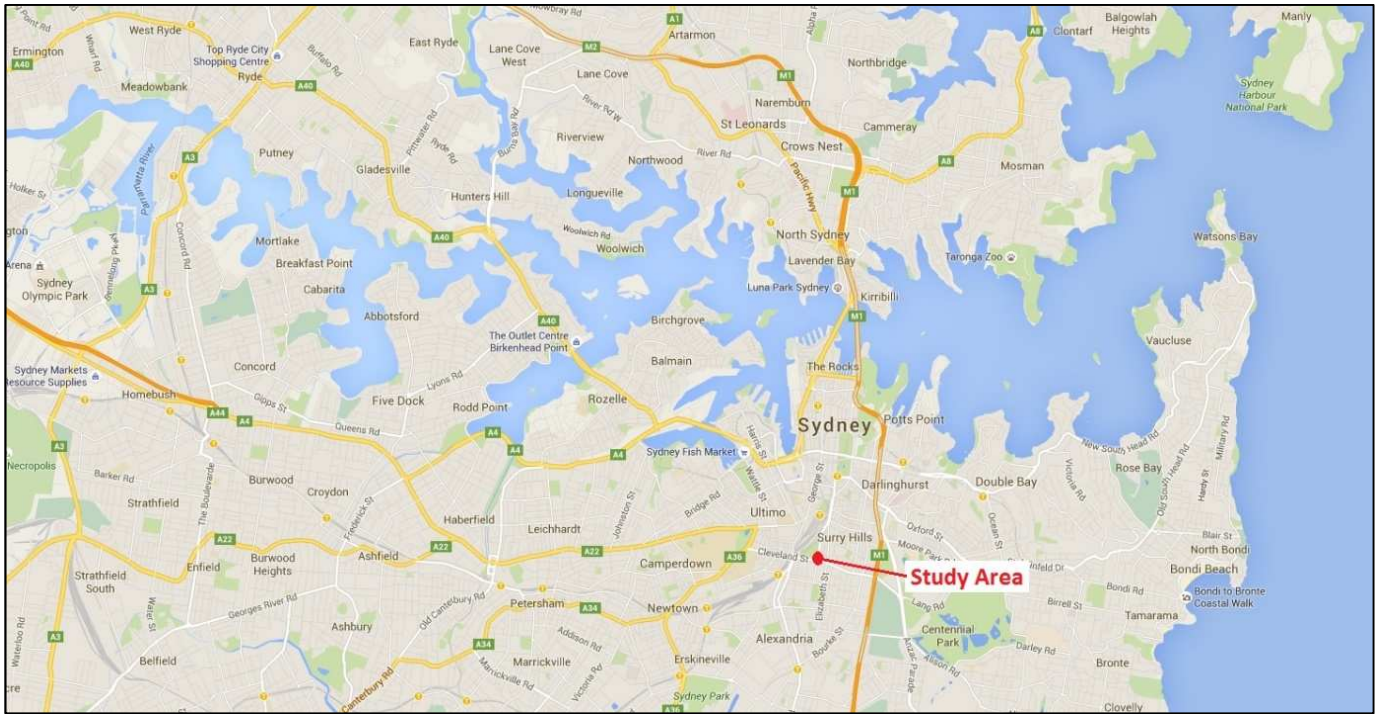

Figure 1: Study area, Surry Hills, south-east of the Sydney Central Business District (Google Maps).

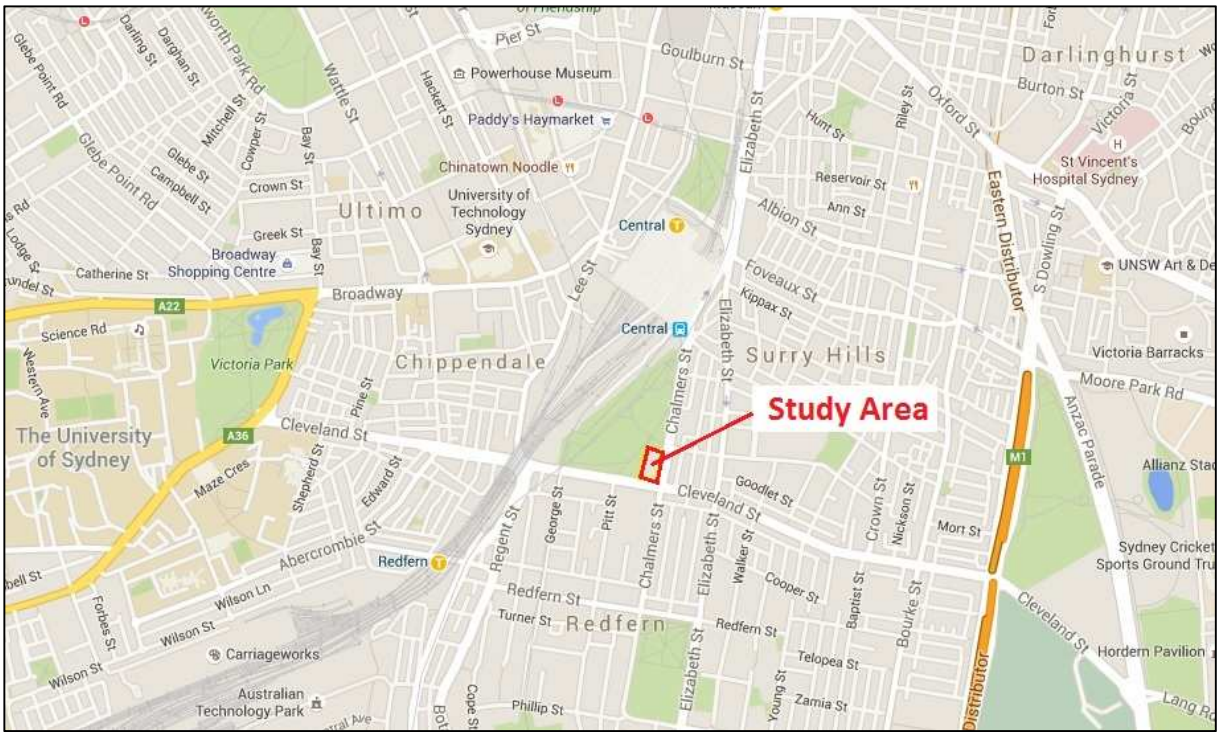

Figure 2: Study area edged in red (Google Maps).

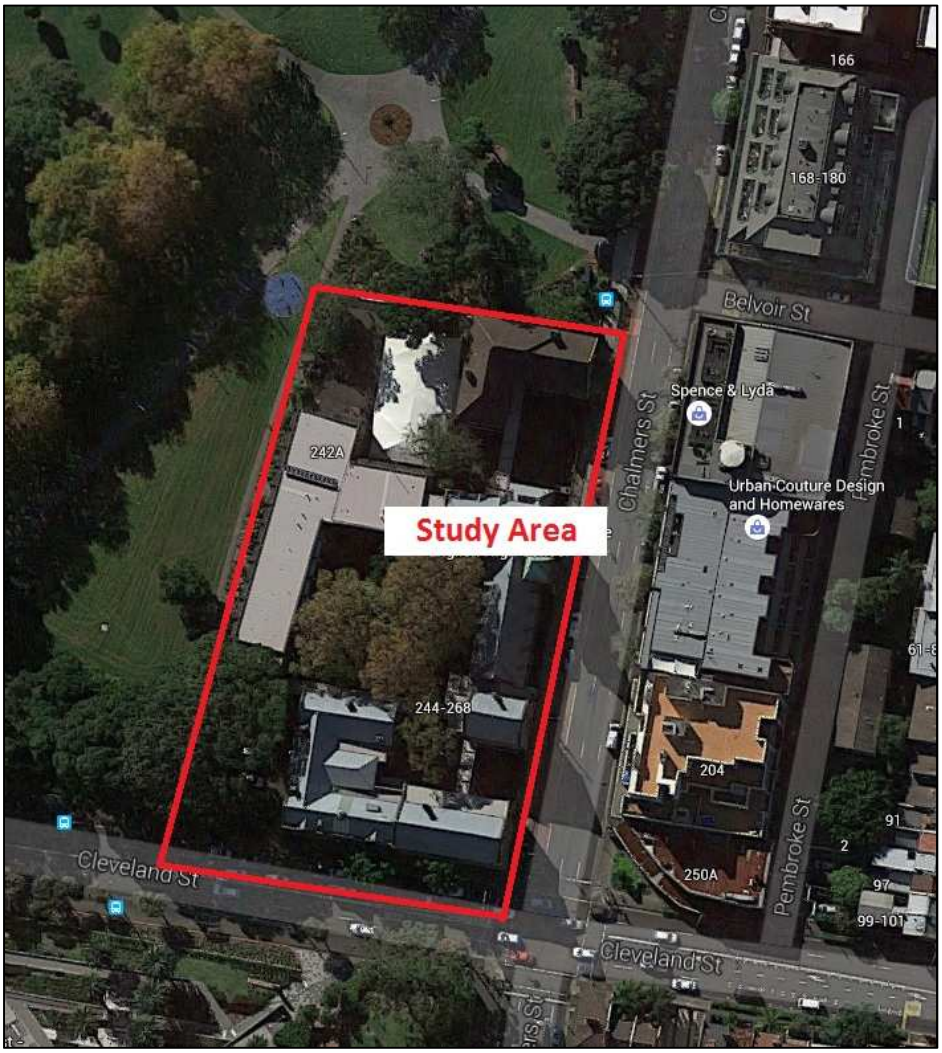

Figure 3: Study area edged in red (Google Maps).

2.0 METHODOLOGY

METHODOLOGY
EFFECTVE SURVEY COVERAGE

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Methodology

This project was conducted in three stages, being background research, field survey and report preparation, as detailed below.

Stage 1: Background Research
Prior to the field component of this project, a search of the Office of Environment and Heritage's Aboriginal Heritage Management Information System (AHIMS) of the Office of Environment and Heritage was consulted. A copy of the AHIMS Extensive search is attached at Appendix A. Site data, associated documents and archaeological survey reports held by them were reviewed. Primary and secondary historical research, and environmental research relating to Aboriginal land use was undertaken to allow a history of Aboriginal occupation of the study area to be developed. Such research enabled the potential nature of sites and site patterning in the region, and facilitated the predictive statement. It also provided an archaeological and environmental context to make a significance assessment.

Stage 2: Site Inspection
A site inspection was undertaken on Thursday 30th June 2016 with the following people:

- Ms Alandra Tasire, Archaeologist, Comber Consultants.
- Mr David Nutley, Archaeologist, Comber Consultants.

The entire study area and Prince Alfred Park were inspected on foot.

Stage 3: Report Preparation
Further archaeological research was conducted where necessary to clarify the results of the survey. This report was then compiled and provided to OCP Architects.

2.2 Effective Survey Coverage

Ground surface visibility refers to the amount of bare ground visible during the field survey. The visibility of some site types, such as open artefact scatters, is dependent upon ground visibility and exposure. OEH guidelines suggest that this information be presented in a table which quantifies and details the local detectability (OEH Code of Practice 2010:19).

The study area is comprised of buildings, asphalt, concrete and garden areas. No natural ground surfaces were visible.

Therefore, as ground visibility was nil the recommended table was not used.

3.0 ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION

3.0 CONSULTATION

Aboriginal culture is dynamic and continuous. It includes the tangible and intangible and links people over time to their community and land. It is important to recognise that Aboriginal people have the right to protect, preserve and promote their cultural heritage.

In recognition of that right Aboriginal consultation was undertaken in accordance with OEH's *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* and is detailed in an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) (Comber 2017).

As a result of that consultation following are the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs):

- Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Darug Land Observatoins
- Murramarang
- Gulaga
- Biamanga
- Cullendulla
- DuncanSuey & Associates
- Goobah Developments
- Didge Ngunawal
- Darug Cultural Heritage Assessments

Consultation was undertaken with the above organisations in respect of this project and consultation will be ongoing.

4.0 ABORIGINAL HISTORY

THE DARUG
THE GADI (CADI) CLAN OF THE DARUG
ABORIGINAL OCCUPATION
EUROPEAN CONTACT
SYDNEY TRIBES AND CLANS
LANGUAGE AND BOUNDARIES
FOOD AND SUBSISTENCE

4.0 ABORIGINAL HISTORY

4.1 The Darug

The study area (Figure 4) is located in the traditional land of the coastal Darug.

Research by R.H. Mathews, a pioneer linguist and anthropologist, in the early twentieth-century revealed that the Darug inhabited an area adjoining the 'Thurawal' (Dharawal) to the south and Gundungurra and Wiradjuri to the west. Their territory extended along the coast to the Hawkesbury River and inland to Windsor, Penrith and Campbelltown; then from the mouth of the Hawkesbury River to Mount Victoria (Mathews 1901a:140; Mathews 1901b:155). Three distinct Darug groups are known and located regionally as the coastal, hinterland and mountain Darug (Attenbrow 2002:23).

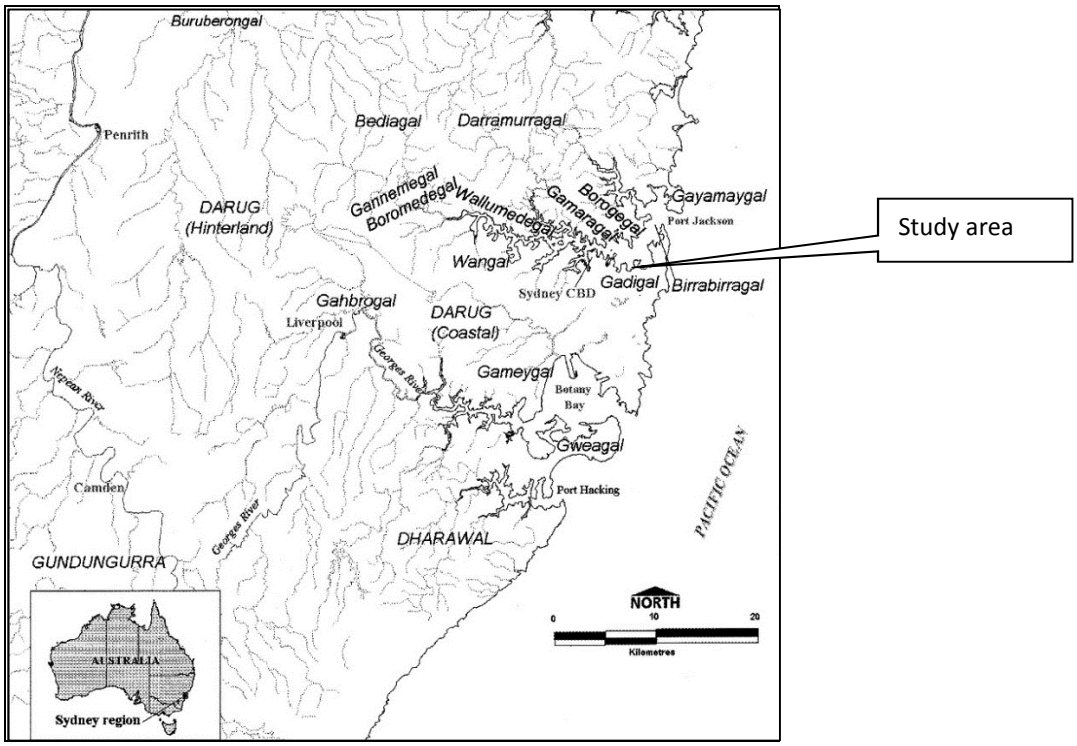

Figure 4: Location of language groups Dharawal, Gundungurra and Darug. summarised by Attenbrow (2002:34).

4.2 The Gadi (Cadi) Clan of the Darug

The Cadi, were recorded by Phillip (13 Feb 1790) to reside in the area from the entrance of the harbour, along the south shore, to the cove adjoining the settlement. King (in Hunter 1793) recorded the Cadi on the south side [of Port Jackson], extending from the south head to Long Cove [Iron Cove]. To the west adjacent to the Cadi the Wann clan is recorded from Long Cove [Iron Cove] to Rose hill (Attenbrow 2002:24-27).

4.3 Aboriginal Occupation

There is uncertainty surrounding the exact timing of the initial human colonisation of Australia. Recognised dating techniques have provided results for occupation ranging from 68,000 to 40,000 years before the present (BP). Clear archaeological evidence from Lake Mungo indicates people have occupied areas of Australia for over 40 000 years (Mulvaney & Kaminga 1999; Roberts et al. 1990; 1993; 1998; 2001). Occupation in the Blue Mountains and the Sydney region have been dated respectively to 22,000 BP at Wentworth Falls and 14,000 BP at Shaws Creek, K2 (Attenbrow 2002:18).

4.4 European Contact

In 1788 Europeans began the colonisation of the area known as Sydney with the arrival of the first fleet and Governor Phillip. It is from diaries and records from the first European contact, colonisation and later anthropological research that much of our understanding of Aboriginal people in the Sydney area comes from. Due to the consequences of colonisation and lack of systematic recording of Aboriginal lifeways, pre-contact Sydney is inadequately understood.

However, it is well documented that the Aboriginal population was dramatically affected by British colonisation. First, due to sickness when in 1789 a smallpox epidemic took around half of the population and then the continued alienation of people from their land and food sources, other introduced diseases and massacres. Although Aboriginal people were dislocated from their original way of life many remained to live in Sydney in places such as the Mulgoa Valley, Emu Plains, Plumpton, Manly, La Perouse, Salt Pan Creek and Campbelltown (Attenbrow 2010:21-22).

An image engraved of a camp north of the study area at Cockle Bay in 1813 demonstrates people continuing to live in the area (Figure 5) after European settlement.

Figure 5: *A native camp near Cockle Bay, New South Wales 1813.* Philip Slaeger, engraver; after John Eyre. Engraving reproduction. From Absalom West, Views in New South Wales, 1813-1814 [and] historical account of the colony of New South Wales, 1820-1821. Bequest of David Scott Mitchell, 1907. PX*D 65, plate.

The area presently comprising Central Train Station, Belmore Park and Prince Alfred Park was used as an important meeting point for Aboriginal people throughout the 1790s. Collins records that in December 1793

> *The natives who lived about Sydney appeared to place the utmost confidence in us, choosing a clear spot between the town and the brickfield for the performance of any of their rites and ceremonies, and for three evenings the town had been amused with one of their spectacles…* (Collins 1798: Dec 1793).

The area, including the study area, continued to be used as a ceremonial meeting place for Aboriginal people throughout the following years and as "a place whence they {Aboriginal people} derived so many comforts and so much shelter in bad weather" (Collins 1802:Oct 1796). Figure 6 is a painting from 1850 showing Aboriginal people still camping in the area.

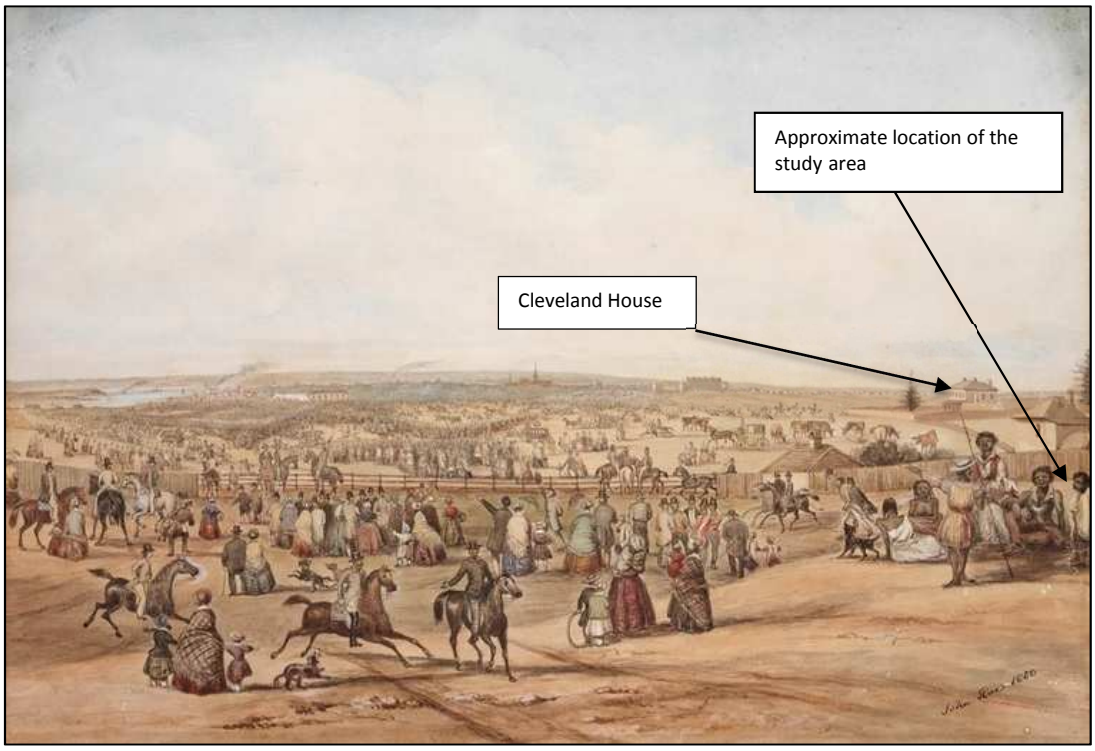

Figure 6: Turning the sod, of the first railway in the Australasian colonies at Redfern, Sydney, N.S.W. 3rd July 1850. John Rae 1813-1900 (Mitchell library ML 244).

A road from Cockle Bay to Botany Bay was noted by the early settlers as an important corridor for trade and movement for Aboriginal people in early Sydney. The area along this corridor between Cockle Bay and Botany Bay is described by Governor Arthur Phillip in 1788 as occupied by wood and beyond that a kind of heath, sandy, and full of swamps and later described by Atkins in 1792 as immense trees, lofty branches, flowering shrubs, blossoms of vivid and beautiful colours (AHMS 2015:13). The study area is located within this corridor.

4.5 Sydney Tribes and Clans

At the time Governor Phillip arrived, it was reported that not less than 1,500 people were seen living around the area of Port Jackson. However, in the more recent estimates, numbers are known to be more significant and are believed to have been between 2,000 and 3,000 people (Attenbrow 2002:21).

The earliest colonial records generally refer to groups of people as 'tribes'. These groups are identified as local descent groups and are referred to as local or territorial 'clans' in modern anthropological terms. Different clan groups were seen hunting, fishing or gathering together. These combined clan land-using groups are referred to as 'bands' and although not from the same clan were more than likely related by marriage (Attenbrow 2002:22).

From 1788 to 1800, thirty individual clans were recorded. However, it is difficult to ascertain the number of clans due to variances in spelling used by the authors of the various records. Some may be describing the same clan and it is quite likely that some were not recorded. Documentary sources provide little detailed information about the boundaries of the traditional 'country' with which Sydney Aboriginal clans identified (Attenbrow 2002:24-29). However, it was understood that clans identified with areas of land. Clans identified with an area of residence and members were named after the area they resided with the suffix '-gal' (man) or '-galleon' (woman) added (Phillip 13 Feb 1790 in HRA 1(1) cited in Attenbrow 2002:22-24; Kass et al. 1996:6).

Governor Phillip Gidley King made observations about Aboriginal territories, noting Aboriginal place names. He wrote that:

> *...the tribe of Cadi inhabit the south side, extending from the south head to Long Cove; at which place the district of Wanne, and the tribe of Wangal, commences, extending as far as Par-ra-mata, or Rose Hill... I have already observed that the space between Rose-Hill and Prospect-Hill is distinguished by eight different names, although the distance is only four miles* (King 1793 cited in Attenbrow 2002:22).

Anthropological studies indicate that clan sizes varied widely, consisting of between thirty to sixty people who moved through their territory using seasonal routes to access food, shelter and other resources necessary for survival as well as ceremonial sites. Generally, people camped, travelled, foraged, fished and hunted in smaller, extended family groups, coming together at times with the larger group for ceremonies and ritual combats (Attenbrow 2002:29).

4.6 Language and Boundaries

British colonists in the earlier years of the colony recorded languages and locations of where they were spoken. The methods at the time did not record the variations systematically, however a body of dialects and geographical proximity were recorded.

Watkin Tench (c.1758-1833), a naval officer, noted that people spoke 'different dialects of the same language; many of the most common and necessary words, used in life, bearing no similitude, and others being slightly different'. It was observed that although individuals from the coast and from the Hawkesbury were using different dialects to converse, they understood each other without difficulty (Tench 1793:122 in Fitzhardinge 1979:230). Tench was bemused by the variance in the languages considering the geographical proximity of the places, noting that 'these diversities arise from want of intercourse with the people on the coast, can hardly be imagined, as distance inland is but thirty-eight miles; and from Rose Hill not more than twenty, where the dialect of the sea coast is spoken' (Tench 1793:122 in Fitzhardinge 1979:231).

William Dawes (1762-1836), David Collins (1756-1810) and Governor Phillip Gidley King (1758-1808) made lists of words spoken by the coastal people (Attenbrow 2002:31). Dawes, a naval officer and scientist recorded details about pronunciation, verb tenses and sentence construction. A significant characteristic of the Aboriginal language recorded in eighteenth-century colonial records is the use of the suffix '-gal' (man) or '-galleon' (woman). In some areas the suffix was added to a word descriptive of the country in which the community lived (Phillip 13 Feb 1790, in Attenbrow 2002:22).

It was not until the late nineteenth and early twentieth-century that more methodical attempts to record Aboriginal languages were made by individuals such as R.H. Mathews, an anthropologist and linguist. Much of the information we have on languages was gathered by Mathews, by this time however there were few fluent speakers of the languages and dialects in Sydney (Turbet 1989:29, Attenbrow 2002:31-32). In the late 1960 linguist Arthur Capell found unpublished information and his research mapped new boundary alignments (Capell 1970).

Since the 1970s anthropologists and archaeologists have presented new theories about the boundaries of linguistic and tribal groups in and around the Sydney Basin, and debate on the subject continues. In a summary by Attenbrow (2002:34), three Language groups are recognised in the Sydney region; Dharawal, Gundungurra and Darug (see Figure 4). The people within the current study area were coastal Darug speakers.

4.7 Food and Subsistence

Port Jackson is one of the largest estuaries along the New South Wales coast. Access to Port Jackson and the former Botany Swamps that formed within the sand dunes would have provided a variety of possible food sources. The vast water body and freshwater tributaries provide a range of environments in their intertidal and tidal shorelines. These areas contain extensive rock-platforms, sandy beaches and mudflats as well as mangrove forests and seagrass beds. These diverse habitats are feeding grounds for a wide range of fish, shellfish, crustacean, marine mammals, marine turtles, tortoises and water birds. Rivers draining into Port Jackson have freshwater flows and the estuary is fully tidal, with a marine dominated biota (Attenbrow 2002:40). The local environment was also the source of raw materials for tool and weapon-making, clothing and shelter (Attenbrow 2002:71).

Bark canoes are known to have been used to access waterways and travel up the rivers. Colonial observers noted that coastal Aboriginal people obtained bark for canoes during excursions to Parramatta (Collins 1798: Vol 1 App 6). The shallow-draught, water craft made of bark and two to three metres in length were skilfully manoeuvred around the river. Bangalay (*Eucalyptus botryoides*), large River Oak (*C. cunninghamiana*) and species of Stringybark (*Eucalyptus agglomerata*) are thought to have been used for canoe construction (Attenbrow 2002:112; Turbet 1989:50).

The ample fresh water sources attracted native animals which were hunted or trapped. The hunting of tree-dwellers such as possums and gliders is thought to have been a common activity. Kangaroo and wallaby were hunted less often and most likely when several clans came together for ceremonies (Brook & Kohen 1991:3-4). Aboriginal people of the district used traps and snares to catch animals to eat. In 1789 on a journey between Rose Hill and the Nepean, observations were made that traps were used to catch ducks which were plentiful and snares were used to catch "opossums" and other tree and small ground dwelling animals (Bradley c.1802, SLNSW Manuscripts, Electronic transcript, p.166). Other food resources included bull ants

and the eggs and larvae of the longicorn beetle or witchetty grub (Kass *et al* 1996:6).

Botany Bay was named after the profusion of plant species, over 250 of these have been identified as being edible. There were extensive areas between Port Jackson and Botany Bay where freshwater and estuarine wetlands with saltmarsh and mangrove communities occurred in the lower stretches of the rivers and bays along the coast. Seasonal plant foods including fruits, tubers, shoots, flowers, berries, seeds and nectar of local trees, and grasses were also prominent in the diet. Food collection required a detailed knowledge of each plant's properties as well as of the local environment, seasonal variations and preparation methods. Macrozamia for example is poisonous unless prepared in a particular way. Plants also provided ingredients for medicinal preparations (Attenbrow 2002:40-41; Brook & Kohen 1991:5).

Aboriginal people relied on an extensive knowledge of their land and its resources and the acquisition of diverse skills essential to their survival in an environment that could be unpredictable. By 1814 it was increasingly difficult for Aboriginal people to catch or procure food using traditional methods. Similarly, food-gathering patterns were altered by the lack of access to their traditional lands, which were now farmed by the new settlers. Limited opportunities were offered by Europeans willing to barter spirits and tobacco, and even food, for fish (Barratt 1981:71-2).

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

TOPOGRAPHY
STREAM ORDER MODELLING
GEOLOGY AND SOILS
VEGETATION
CURRENT LAND USE AND DISTURBANCE

5 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

5.1 Topography

The study area is located within the central portion of the Sydney Basin. The Sydney Basin is characterised by contrasting landscapes of rugged sandstone escarpments and gently undulating hills over shale (Herbert 1980:21; Sydney 1:100,000 geological map).

Surry Hills is defined by gently undulating rolling hills and crests and ridges with gently inclined slopes (Sydney 1.100,000 geological map). The suburbanisation of the local area has generally followed the topography of the original surface however some modification has been undertaken to build roads and structures (McIntyre 1946). Cleveland Street follows the ridgeline, with the study area sloping down toward Central Railway Station. The study area is within an area which was historically known as "The Sandhills", a sand dune system extending from Sydney to Botany Bay. This Botany Lowlands dune system was once stabilised with vegetation, however European removal of the vegetation and prevailing winds shifted the sand northwards towards Sydney. In later years, the problem was alleviated by bitumen paving, residential and industrial development which helped re-stabilise the dunes (Kass 2016:7). Rainfall runoffs throughout the Botany Lowlands dune system collected in swamps, lagoons and depressions.

Prior to the more recent modification of this area, a tributary of Blackwattle Creek flowed through Prince Alfred Park and the study area (AHMS 2015; City of Sydney 2016). Blackwattle Creek was originally called Black Wattle Swamp Creek as it began in the swamplands of the present day University of Sydney and ran past the former Carlton United Brewery on Broadway serving as the brewery's water source. Black Wattle Swamp Creek then rose in a swamp in Prince Alfred Park and then followed the line of Blackfriars Street and entered into Blackwattle Bay in a large swamp at the site of the Sydney City Council Depot on William Henry Street (http://www.visitsydneyaustralia.com.au/lost-waterways.html, accessed 25/07/2016). The Sydney railway plan "Plan of the Grounds in the City of Sydney, proposed to be appropriated for Railway Station and Works" created for the preliminary rail shows a creek running to the north west, adjacent to the study area (Figure 7). The later 1855 detailed survey for the Sydney Council indicates the creek ran directly through the school grounds (Figure 8).

The present study area is located approximately 2km to the north west of Centennial Park and approximately 1km to the north west of Moore Park, both of which historically were swamplands. It is located approximately 1km east of the University of Sydney, which historically was also swamplands and was the head of Blackwattle Creek. The study area is located approximately 1.5km north of Shea's Creek, a small truncated tributary at the end of the Alexandria Canal. Historically Shea's Creek ran from just to the south of Redfern Railway Station through Alexandria into the Cook's River (GML 2012:72). The study area is also located 1.5km south of Cockle Bay, Darling Harbour.

The presence of swamplands and creeks indicates that the study area would have been part of a rich wetland area with a wealth of resources with access to the coastal rocky foreshore of Cockle Bay.

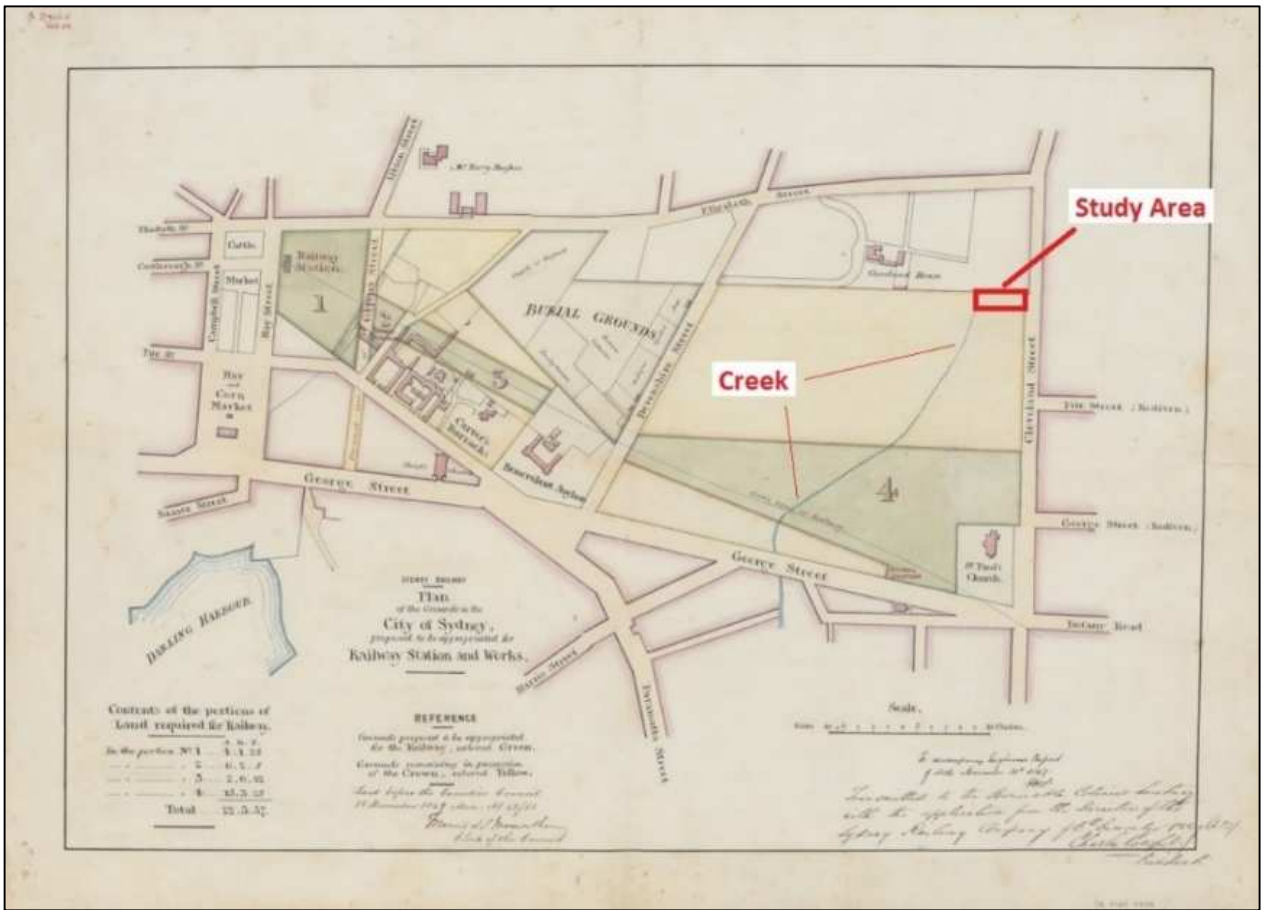

Figure 7: Railway Station and works 1849 [SR Map 6408], indicating study area and creek.

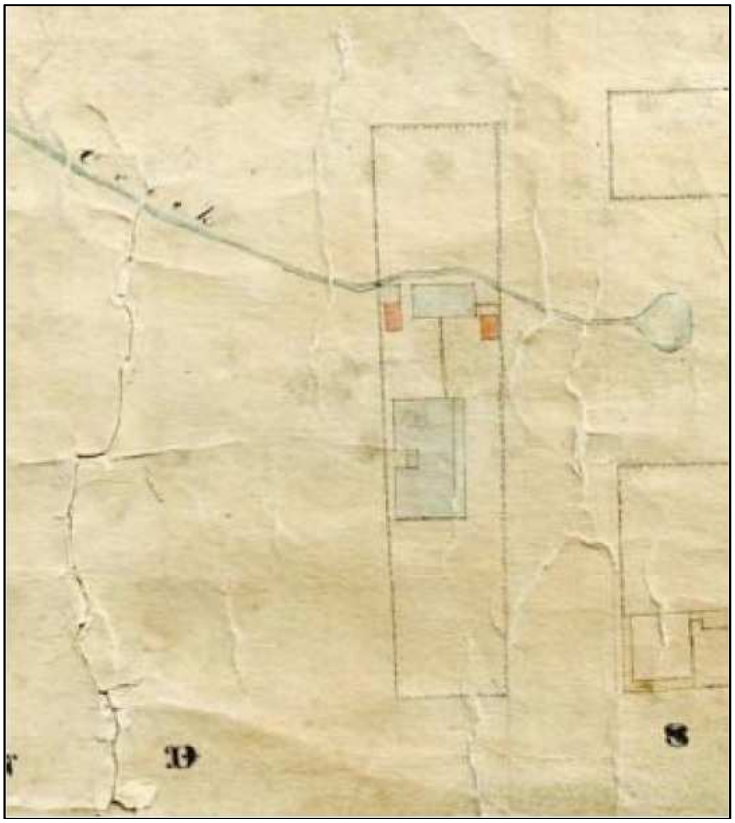

Figure 8: The 1855 Detail Survey completed for Sydney Council of the school on the site and indicating the creek. Source: 1855 Detail Survey, CCSA, Sheet 23.

5.2 Stream Order Modelling

Stream order can be used to predict Aboriginal land use patterns. Blackwattle and Shea's Creek would historically be classified as second order streams.

A first order stream is the smallest and is a small tributary that feeds larger streams but does not normally have any water flowing into it. The joining of two first order streams creates a second order stream and when two second order streams join, they form a third order stream. In addition, first and second order streams generally form on steep slopes and flow quickly until they slow down and meet the next order waterway. First order streams are intermittent.

Modelling undertaken by McDonald and Mitchell (1994) indicates that stream order can be used to predict areas of archaeological potential. The model hypothesis is that in any particular climate and landscape, a threshold catchment area is necessary to allow permanent stream flow or the establishment of waterholes with extended longevity (i.e. months to years). The critical point where these conditions are met appears to be at the junction of two second or third order streams. Such a location is likely to contain more complex sites with a high density of artefacts, whilst second and third order streams are also likely to contain large sites within 100 metres of the watercourse.

The study area is located adjacent to Blackwattle Creek and approximately 1.5km to the north of the now truncated Shea's Creek, both second order streams. As the study area is located between two second order streams it could be predicted to contain high archaeological potential.

5.3 Geology and Soils

The study area is found in the dune systems of the Botany Lowlands, an Aeolian landscape, formed during the Quaternary (Holocene and Pleistocene) period (Sydney 1:100,000 geological map). This environment, built by onshore winds forms transgressive dunes which originate from the remobilisation of beach and foredune sand blown inland. These dunes have been reworked from older sand surfaces well removed from coastal processes and have usually formed during periods when the sea level was lower than at present. Much of the dune sand in the Botany Basin is of Pleistocene age. These dunes are typically composed of fine to medium, well-sorted marine sand (Herbert 1983:55). Adjacent to the west and east the landform consists of the Ashfield Shale from the Wianamatta Group of shales which overlays the Hawkesbury Sandstone, formed during the Middle Triassic period. The sequence contains siltstone and laminate (Sydney 1:000,000 geological map).

The Wianamatta Group does not provide a good variety of material highly siliceous lithic materials suitable for stone tool manufacture. These thin shales are not strong enough for use in stone tool manufacture. Deposits of silcrete and chert are available from western Sydney at Plumpton, Penrith, St Clair and Prospect, all a considerable distance from Surry Hills. As a result, people of the Sydney region favoured shell, rather than stone, for tool manufacture. If stone was required, it would have been necessary to travel great distances or trade to obtain chert or silcrete (Comber 2012:10).

The dune systems in the vicinity of the study area also does not contain outcrops of stone material suitable for stone tools manufacture, such as tuff, chert, flint, silcrete or quartz. As there are no immediate outcrops of stone in the study area or surround areas, the likelihood of raw material for stone tools is minimal. However, stone would have been available from nearby areas and any finds would indicate material being introduced into the area.

5.4 Vegetation

The vegetation surrounding the study area would once have consisted mainly of dry sclerophyll or open woodland. The alluvial soils would have supported a river-flat forest, including various *Eucalypt* species and *Angophoras*. The open woodland species would have included *Eucalyptus siberi* (Silvertop Ash), *Eucalyptus piperita* (Sydney Peppermint), *Eucalyptus sclerophyllia* (Scribbly Gum), plus *Corymbia* with an understorey of *Banksia serrata* (Old Man Banksia), *Banksia spinulosa* (Hairpin Banksia), *Banksia integrifolia* (Coast Banksia) and various *Acacia spp.*, including *Acacia longifolia*. Flowering shrubs would have included *Telopea speciosissima* (Waratah) and *Boronia serrulate* (Native Rose), whilst groundcover species would have included *Grevillia laurfolia* and *Persoonia chamaepitys*. Clumps of *Lomandra longifolia* would also have grown on headland areas. In addition, various heathland communities would have existed along coastal areas (Baker 1986).

Such vegetation would have provided a rich and varied food source. Flowers from the *Eucalyptus* and *Banksias* provide a rich nectar. *Acacia* pods can be eaten and the bark used medicinally. This vegetation also supported a variety of animal life associated with Aboriginal diet. This included possums, various wallabies and other small marsupials, as well as birds and lizards. Bark and wood suitable for spears, shields, water and/or food vessels (coolamons) and other implements would have been available from large trees (Low 1989).

However, the urbanisation of Sydney has ensured that the landscape and its vegetation has been dramatically altered and no longer resembles the pre-contact landscape.

5.5 Current Land Use and Disturbance

The study area is located in an area first named the Government Paddocks. In 1790 much of the land in Surry Hills was granted for grazing and became privately owned, however the Paddocks remained government property. On the 1829 "Plan for the neighbourhood and roads from Sydney to the estate named Mount Lachlan' (Figure 9) the study area was located within the Government Paddocks. The Paddocks was later named Cleveland Paddocks after Cleveland House was built in the 1820's, by the wealthy ex-convict and merchant Daniel Cooper, on the grant 'Cleveland Gardens' (Keating & Wotherspoon 2009:109).

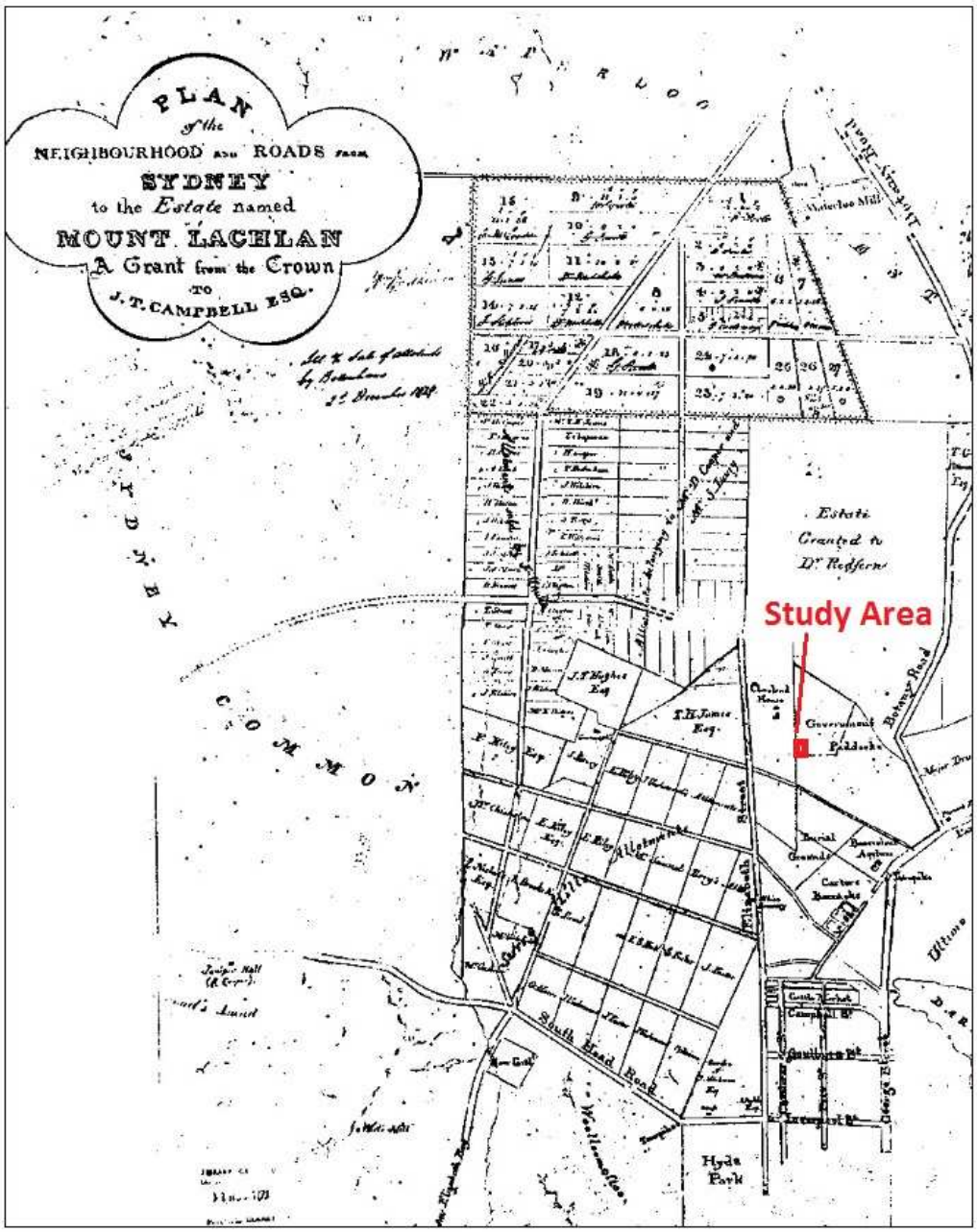

Figure 9: The 1829 'Plan for the neighbourhood and roads from Sydney to the estate named Mount Lachlan' including the Government paddocks (State Library of New South Wales).

The 1849 'Plan of the Grounds in the City of Sydney, proposed to be appropriated for Railway Station and Works', was created prior to the construction of the major railway terminus. The map shows the grounds proposed for the Sydney Railway in green with the crown lands in yellow. The study area is found within the Cleveland Paddocks near Cleveland House (Figure 7).

In an image created by John Rae (Figure 6) showing the turning of the sod in 1850 for the commencement of the railway, a variety of the city's population is seen at the event. Cleveland House can be seen at the far right of the image, with the study area located approximately in the vicinity of the fence and buildings. In this image, Aboriginal people can be seen camped adjacent to the present study area.

In 1855 land was excised from the Paddocks to be used for the Cleveland Street Public School. The site bordered the area of Sydney known at that time as "The Sandhills", between Sydney and Botany Bay.

On 25 February 1858, William Wilkins of the Board reported that the school fence was no longer effective as Council had raised the level of Castlereagh Street (which was later renamed Chalmers Street) about 6 feet above the ground level of the school site and the school buildings. This resulted in the school being positioned in a hollow next to the street corner (Kass 2016:8).

The former Cleveland Street Public School established in 1855 began as iron structures which became permanent in 1867 (Figure 10) and remain on the site to this day. The original building occupied a long narrow site and was then extended in 1891 when a site to its west was also resumed to allow expansion of the School (Perumal Murphy Alessi 2015:7).

Figure 10: Cleveland Street Public School 1867-68 [State of New South Wales, Department of Education and Training] (Government Schools 2016).

The school requirements for space grew with the student attendance and over the period of the school's history there have been four additions to the original building and changes in grounds. Figure 11 below shows the growth of the school with the original building being constructed in 1867 and subsequent additions in 1891, 1908, 1924 and 1969 (City of Sydney 2016).

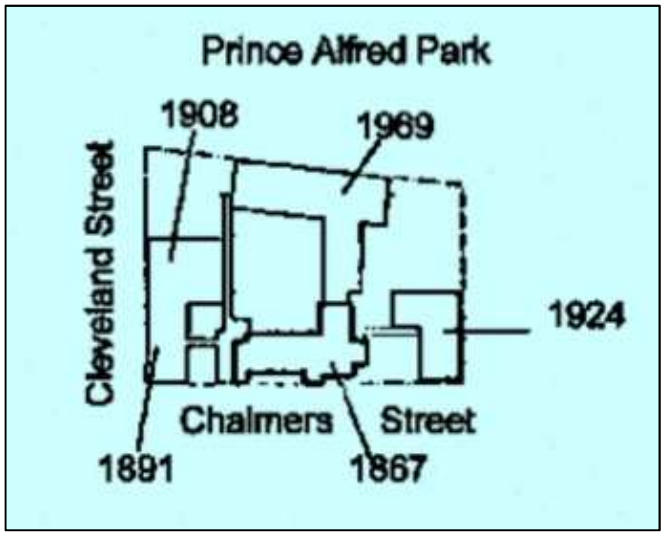

Figure 11: Cleveland School, 1867 the original building, with additions in 1891, 1908, 1924 and 1969 (City of Sydney 2016).

The remaining area of Cleveland Paddocks was gazetted as a public reserve on 22 December 1865, although it was described in 1869 by Jules Joubert as 'a quagmire with a filthy drain running across it – a plague spot' (City of Sydney 2016). Nevertheless, in 1868 it was named after Queen Victoria's second son, Prince Alfred, then visiting Sydney (City of Sydney 2016). Prince Alfred Park is bounded by Chalmers Street, Cleveland Street and Central Railway, Surry Hills. The study area sits at the corner of the park at the intersection of Cleveland Street and Chalmers Street. Figure 12 shows the study area in 1943.

It would appear that disturbance prior to the construction of the school was minimal. Prior to construction of the school, the site was vacant land, which was excised from the Paddocks in 1855 to allow construction of the school. Figure 11 above shows the various phases of construction and additions to the school. Geotechnical investigations indicate that on the western side of the site the fill extends to approximately 1.5m. The proposal, which is the subject of this report includes the demolition of the 1969 building on the western side of the site.

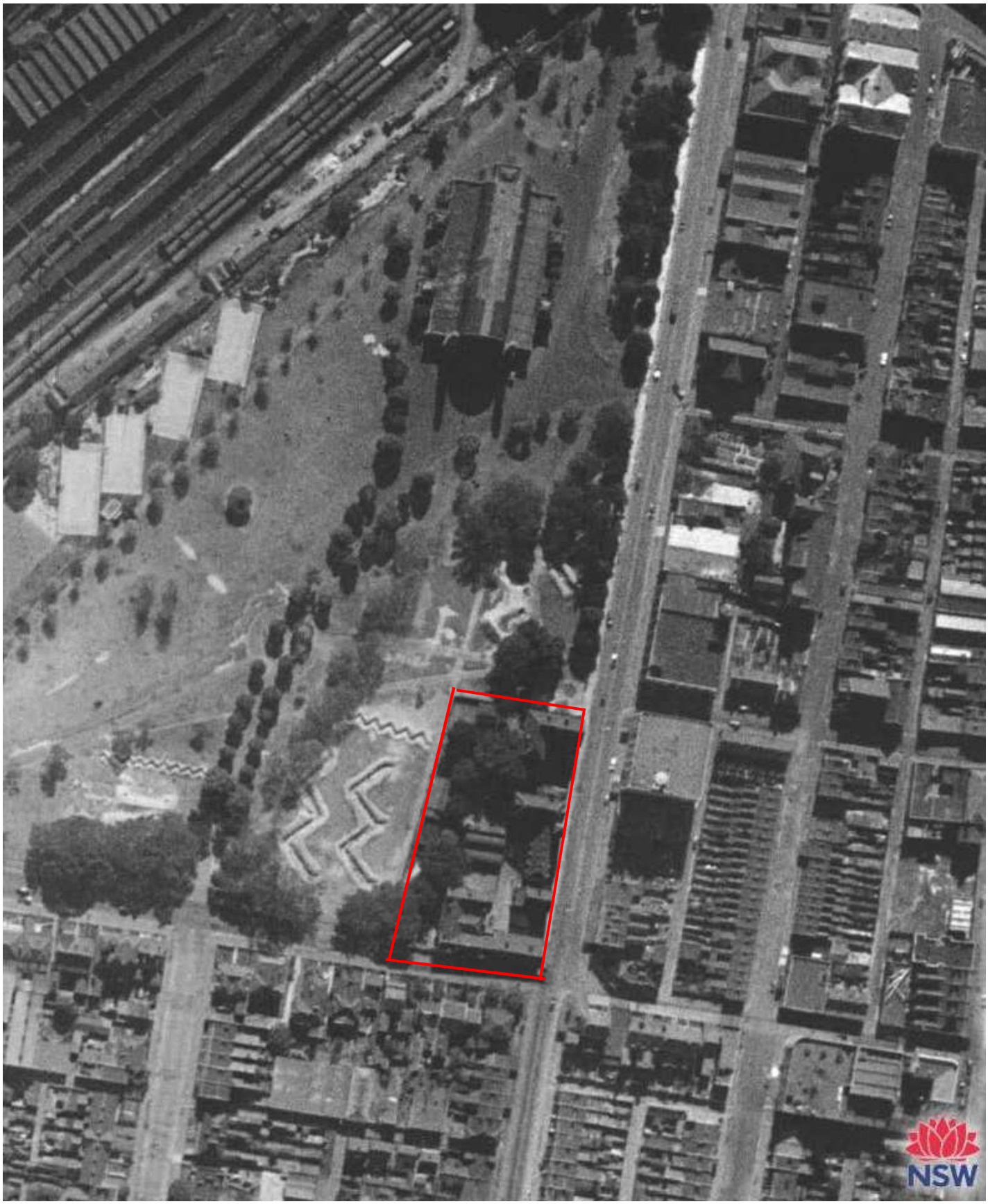

Figure 12:1943 aerial showing the study area edged in red (map courtesy of http://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/)

6.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

THE SYDNEY REGION
SYDNEY CBD
STUDY AREA
SITE PREDICTION

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

6.1 The Cumberland Plain

Many surveys have been undertaken in the Sydney region which indicate the richness of the archaeological resources and provide information about Aboriginal occupation. In particular, Attenbrow (2002) has excavated a range of sites within the Sydney Basin. The aim of her study was to identify local geographic variation and temporal changes in the subsistence patterns and material culture of the people of this area. She excavated sites at Balmoral Beach, Cammeray, Castle Cove, Sugarloaf Point (Lane Cove River), Darling Mills State Forest, Winston Hills, Vaucluse and Cumberland Street in the Rocks. Dates for initial occupation vary from approximately 10,000 years BP at Darling Mills to approximately 450 years BP at Cumberland Street, The Rocks.

The oldest dated occupation for the Sydney region is 30,000 years BP from a site excavated by McDonald at Parramatta. She excavated an area known as the RTA site (McDonald 2005), located at George Street, Parramatta (McDonald 2005) on an alluvial sand terrace running parallel to the Parramatta River. This site provided a sequence of occupation dating from the late Pleistocene through to the mid-Holocene. Although the site had been heavily impacted by development, the sub-surface deposits revealed an "accumulation of evidence from multiple occupation episodes, no doubt occurring at many different times" (McDonald 2005:147). Radiocarbon dating provided a range of dates indicating continuous occupation of the site. The most important date showed that the alluvial sand terrace was possibly first occupied during the late Pleistocene period, about 30,000 years BP and then showed various phases of occupation (McDonald 2005c:107). The earliest date obtained from this site, 30,000 years BP, provides the oldest date for the Sydney Basin (McDonald 2005:4). However, it should be noted that the date was obtained from charcoal in the sieve and not in association with cultural deposits, therefore caution should be exercised when considering this date. The next oldest dated occupation is 15,000 years BP from the Shaws Creek K2 rock shelter on the Nepean River (Kohen 1984; Nanson et al 1987). However, these dates must be considered in association with environmental data related to sea level rises. The Sydney region that we know today was vastly different to the landscape of 15,000-30,000 years ago.

The period of maximum glaciation was 15,000–18,000 years BP. Therefore, the date of the K2 rock shelter, Attenbrow's Darling Mills site and McDonald's Pleistocene date, indicate that Aboriginal people lived throughout a period of extreme environmental change. During this period, sea levels were up to 130m below current levels (Nutley 2006:1). About 10,000 years ago as temperatures began rising at the end of the last ice age, the polar ice started melting and sea levels rose. The rising sea levels forced people to abandon coastal sites and move inland, with the result that the oldest coastal sites were inundated. By about 6,000 years ago rising water levels had flooded the coastal plain forming the Sydney landscape that we know today. The vast majority of sites in the Sydney region date to around 5,000 years BP, after sea levels had stabilised. Whilst research into submerged indigenous sites is now being undertaken (Nutley 2006), there are few sites in the Sydney area that are known to date beyond 10,000 years BP. Therefore, research undertaken to date has focused on subsistence patterns and cultural change, e.g. Attenbrow (2003).

Attenbrow's (2003) study of the "Sydney region" extended from the eastern coast to the Hawkesbury-Nepean River to the north and west and as far south as Picton (2002: xiii), which includes the present study area. At the time of publication (2002), Attenbrow noted that approximately 4,340 Aboriginal sites had been registered with OEH's Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) in the Sydney region (Attenbrow 2002:48). Middens and open campsites comprised just over half of the recorded sites (Attenbrow 2002:48-49). From both the archaeological evidence and historical records, she noted that the main focus of occupation was "on the valley bottoms and shorelines" (Attenbrow 2002:47). In addition, the evidence indicates that occupation was greater on the coastal/estuarine environments rather than in the hinterland/freshwater environments and on the Hawkesbury sandstone areas rather than the Wianamatta shales (Attenbrow 2002:51). Her work produced a great deal of information in respect of the people of the Sydney region, their social organisation and land use patterns. Her (2002:152-155) analyses indicates that prior to 5,000 years ago occupation in the Sydney region was not intensive and was only by small groups of people. It was not until sea levels stabilised about 5,000 years ago that more intensive occupation began with many open sites being first occupied in the last 1,500 years.

6.2 Sydney

The 1883 publication *Aborigines of Australia* and the 1880 *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* recorded a rock engraving at the area now known as Dawes Point Park, approximately 35km north of the study area. The engraving was either of a whale or a shark with the figure of a man at its head. This engraving has since been destroyed, probably during the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge (AHIMS 45-6-0030). Prior to construction of the Harbour Bridge Dawes Point would have been a high rocky point.

In 1985 Lampert excavated a midden and camp site at Mort's Bond Store, approximately 2.5km north of the study area. The site had

been truncated by construction of the building and was in a highly disturbed condition. It contained shell and bone, as well as stone artefacts manufactured from red and grey silcretes, quartz, quartzite and chert. The artefacts were comprised of flakes, flaked pieces and cores. He hypothesised that the stone material was sourced from quarries on the Cumberland Plain (Lampert 1985).

An engraving was recorded "on upright surfaces in creek bed" at Goat Island (AHIMS 45-6-811). These engravings include a whale, kangaroo and fish. Three disturbed middens have also been recorded on Goat Island, (AHIMS 45-6-0811; 45-6-1957; 45-6-2382). Goat Island is situated at the mouth of Darling Harbour, approximately 4km north of the study area. Goat Island itself is extremely important, as it was recorded in 1798 as being owned by Bennelong, who played a significant role in early Aboriginal-European relations. It was also recorded as being used by Aboriginal people for imprisonment prior to European settlement. Deputy Judge Advocate David Collins, was required by the Colonial Government "...to observe, record and if possible reconcile the Aborigines...". In 1798 he published details of Bennelong's relationship to Goat Island. This is the first official, written account of ownership of land by an Aboriginal person (Gollan 1993).

A midden was recorded at Bennelong Point, approximately 3.5km north east of the study area. The shell from this midden had been collected by the convicts to burn into lime to provide building mortar (AHIMS 45-6-1615). Another midden was uncovered during building works near the historic building "Lilyvale" on the corner of Cumberland and Essex Streets, The Rocks, approximately 3km north east of the study area. It had been highly disturbed by the construction of terrace houses in the 1830s and was subsequently destroyed by the construction of a hotel (AHIMS 45-6-1853).

During historic excavations in relation to the construction of the eastern distributor at Woolloomooloo, an artefact scatter was uncovered. This site was subsequently excavated by Brayshaw (AHIMS 45-6-2580). This site, which was located near a spring contained 4 silcrete, 4 chert, 2 quartz artefacts plus one quartzite and one chalcedonic silica artefact. They were found at a depth of about one metre in "disturbed topsoil, overlain by fill" (AHIMS 45-6-2580:2).

During historic excavations in respect of development works located approximately 2km north east of the study area, at William Street, an artefact scatter was uncovered. This was subsequently excavated and the artefacts included fine quartz debitage and cores, silcrete flakes and tuff cores and flakes (AHIMS 45-6-2651).

At Angel Place, approximately 2.5km north of the study area, during development works stone artefacts were uncovered. This site was subsequently excavated by Steele who retrieved three broken flaked pieces in "partially disturbed topsoil mixed with alluvial silts" (AHIMS 45-6-2581). Steele also recorded a potential archaeological deposit (PAD) at 589-593 George Street, (AHIMS 45-6-2637), which he subsequently excavated. This site is located approximately 1.5km north of the study area between George, Liverpool, Goulbourn and Sussex Streets. Shell deposits were excavated and it was determined that the shell was most likely not of Aboriginal origin (Steele 2002). In 2002 Steele excavated a site on the corner of Broadway and Mountain Streets in relation to the Quadrant Development (AHIMS 45-5-2629). He uncovered 7 quartz and 6 silcrete artefacts.

Steele (2006) also undertook an assessment and excavations at a development site bound by Kent, Erskine, Napoleon and Sussex Streets, which became known as the KENS site. He retrieved a large assemblage of 952 artefacts which were predominately manufactured from silcrete with some tuff and quartz artefacts (Steele 2006:97). He interpreted the site as being occupied between 2,800 BP to 1788.

Steele further recorded PAD at 14-28 Ultimo Road, the site of the Dr Chau Chak Wing Building at the University of Technology, Sydney (AHIMS 45-5-2979). The site card contains recommendations to obtain an AHIP and undertake test excavations. A copy of Steele's (2011) report could not be located and therefore the results of those test excavations is unknown.

In 2011 Higgs recorded an isolated fragment of a large retouched flake which may have been made of petrified wood (AHIMS 45-5-2987) at the corner of Quay Street and Ultimo Road, the Haymarket. The artefact was found in spoil which was removed from a post hole. It was considered that the artefact was not in its original position and that it was unlikely that further Aboriginal objects would be uncovered. An AHIP was acquired for the removal of the object, however no further Aboriginal objects were located.

Higgs further recorded a potential archaeological deposit at 435-473 Wattle Street Ultimo (AHIMS 45-5-3071). The western boundary of the property is Blackwattle Lane, which is named for its alignment with Blackwattle Creek. The site card recommends test excavations, however no indication is provided if those excavations were undertaken.

Diyan Coe recorded a midden in Wynyard Street Sydney (AHIMS 45-5-2597), however the description provided on the site card states "100m south of Redfern Station come to a park on west side of street". The coordinates provided on the AHIMS site card place the midden between Botany Road and Wyndham Street Redfern. It is considered that the site is located on Wyndham Street, Redfern, approximately 1km to the south west of the present study area, not in Wynyard Street, Sydney. No further details are provided.

Allan Madden of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council recorded a PAD at the corner of Mountain Street and Broadway, Ultimo (45-5-2680). The AHIMS site card indicates that a permit for test excavations was obtained by Wheeler, however no

information could be found detailing the results of those test excavations.

AHIMS site 45-5-0647 was first recorded by John Mann in 1883 when he described and illustrated rock engravings within what is now known as Centennial Park at a meeting of the Geographical Society of Australasia. He wrote

> *A flat rock near the Association Ground, Sydney Common, was covered with the representations of kangaroo, opossum, fish, boomerangs, &c.* (cited in Attenbrow 2002:11).

His drawing includes two fish, two macropods (kangaroos or wallabies), an axe or club-like object and an indeterminate outline. Campbell (1899:10) also recorded this site in *Aboriginal Carvings of Port Jackson and Broken Bay*. His description states that

> *…on a flat rock in a saddle of the ridge between the Pastoral and Agricultural Society's Ground and the Centennial Park, on the old cart-track crossing which is now Darvall-street, below an old quarry.*
>
> *Description: the group comprises two boomerangs, portions of a kangaroo or wallaby, a waddy or a stone tomahawk. Mr FJ Man. Licensed Surveyor, who informed the writer of this group, saw it fully forty-five years ago, and states that there were other figures visible then; these have now disappeared in consequence of cart traffic wearing away the rock…*(cited in Attenbrow 2002:12).

The site has since been registered with AHIMS based on the information recorded by Mann and Campbell, however the site has been destroyed.

A rockshelter with art (45-5-0675) was recorded by McCarthy and then registered with the AHIMS database by Guider at Queens Park. The site is described as a rock shelter facing northwest with a view across the entirety of Centennial Park and the city of Sydney. The shelter has a rocky floor and has been subjected to vandalism since 1899. The art is described as 27 white hand stencils, one white fish stencil and six white unknown stencils. He also records a "natural rock slippery -dip which appears to have been worn down over a long period of time possibly by Aboriginal children. European children still use it frequently and its surface is shiny and smooth." (AHIMS Site Card 45-5-0675). Attenbrow inspected the rock shelter in 2002 and states that only a few stencils were barely visible and large areas of the back wall are covered in graffiti.

Attenbrow describes a single stone artefact held at the Australian Museum which was collected from the Sydney Cricket Ground. The object is a silcrete flake with rounded edges and highly polished surfaces. The artefact was inspected by use-wear and residue specialist Dr Richard Fullagar who suggested that "its glossy state and wear was reminiscent of a gizzard stone – perhaps it had been swallowed by an emu and passed through?" (Attenbrow 2002: 15).

In 2014 Artefact Heritage recorded an artefact scatter (45-5-3155) under a former carpark area at Moore Park Tennis Centre. The two artefacts, comprising of a silcrete and a mudstone flake, were retrieved during test excavations for the proposed light rail network. Salvage excavations were later undertaken but it does not appear that any further Aboriginal objects were identified.

In 2008 Comber undertook an assessment of the Darling Walk site at Darling Harbour and predicted that it was possible for subsurface Aboriginal sites to exist on the site. In 2009 (Comber 2012) she excavated the site prior to redevelopment into the present Darling Quarter. She uncovered a midden with charcoal and 10 predominantly chert artefacts (eight chert, one silcrete, and one quartz artefact).

Comber also undertook an assessment and excavations on the western side of Darling Harbour at the site of the former Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre and surrounds (presently being redeveloped into the Sydney International Convention, Exhibition and Entertainment Precinct). Those excavations (Stening 2016) revealed a sequence of middens along the rocky foreshore of the harbour with 63 predominantly silcrete artefacts being collected. One of the middens appeared to be in situ with a knapping floor adjacent to it. Radiocarbon dating results on this midden indicate that it dates to approximately 300 years BP.

The majority of these sites have been uncovered during historical archaeological excavations in relation to development proposals. A few of the sites were recorded at contact. None have been recorded and analysed as a result of a systematic assessment. However, all of these sites are located in the coastline/estuarine environment on Hawkesbury Sandstone. These locations confirm Attenbrow's model of coastal occupation that occupation was greater in these environments and on the Hawkesbury Sandstone than in the hinterland/freshwater environments.

6.3 Study Area

A search of OEH's AHIMS database on 20 July 2016 indicates that there are no known sites within the study area.

However, the history contained in Stening & Tasire (2017) indicates that the study area was is within a traditional Aboriginal ceremonial and hunting ground and contains Aboriginal significance values and archaeological potential.

6.4 Site Prediction

On the basis of the environmental and archaeological information detailed above, it could be predicted that the study area contains high archaeological potential. It is located between two second order streams, was in an area which contained abundant resources and the historical record indicated that the area was a favoured camp ground. The site types that could be expected would be:

1. *Artefact scatters*
   These sites are characterised by surface or sub-surface scatters of stone artefacts or artefacts embedded in deposits.

2. *Isolated finds*
   Single artefacts which may be the result of tool loss, abandonment or maintenance may be found. They may also be indicators of otherwise buried sites or the only remains of heavily disturbed sites.

3. *Shell Middens*
   'Midden' is a term borrowed from the Danish. It originally applied to the accumulations of shell and other food remains left by Mesolithic people in that country.

   Australian Midden sites are an accumulation of hearth and food debris, which has built up a deposit on the ground surface over a length of time. Middens are usually comprised of charcoal and either freshwater or coastal shell species, depending on the site's location. Midden sites may also contain stone artefacts, and the food refuse of other native animals such as small mammals. Coastal shell middens are often found in close association with rock platforms. Freshwater shell middens are found in close proximity to areas that provided freshwater mussels. Middens can contain artefacts and/or burials.

   Given that the study area is located on a small creek and is surrounded by swamps it is possible that shellfish was available.

Scarred or carved trees are not expected as the property has previously been cleared. Similarly, rock shelters, paintings, engravings or axe grinding grooves are not expected, as the study area does not contain rock outcrops suitable for such site types.

7.0 SITE INSPECTION

RESULTS
SUMMARY

7 SITE INSPECTION

7.1 Results

A pedestrian survey of the study area and surrounding Prince Alfred Park was undertaken on 30th June 2016 by David Nutley and Alandra Tasire. It was again inspected on 15TH February 2017 by Jillian Comber. It was observed that the study area does not contain original surfaces. The ground is covered by buildings, asphalt and modern garden beds.

The historic research indicates that prior to the construction of the school, the site was part of the Government Paddocks and possibly used for grazing. Prior to the construction of the school the site was vacant land and an area of significance to the Cadi.

There is a marked difference between the ground level of the study area and Chalmers Street and Cleveland Street. As previously detailed this resulted from the raising of the street by about 6 feet (approximately 1.8m) in 1858 when Chalmers Street (formerly known as Castlereagh Street) was raised above the ground level of the school site and the school buildings (Kass 2016:8).

7.2 Summary

The study area was an important camping and ceremonial ground for Aboriginal people prior to and post colonisation. It contained a creek and was close to swamps and wetlands which would have provided a wide range of resources. Historical information indicates that Aboriginal people continued camping in the area till at least 1850. It is highly likely that evidence of this occupation still remains beneath the school buildings. The historical information indicates that prior to construction of the school the area was part of the Government Paddocks possibly used for grazing.

The study area is in an area of high archaeological potential. It is located adjacent to Blackwattle Creek and approximately 1.5km north of the present alignment of Shea's Creek, both second order creeks. The study area is also located within a highly resource rich swampland which extends from the University of Sydney to Centennial Park. The predictive model developed by McDonald and Mitchell indicates that it is highly likely that subsurface archaeological deposits will exist within the study area.

8.0 SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

PREAMBLE
ASSESSMENT
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

8 SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

8.1 Preamble

Significance assessment is the process whereby sites or landscapes are assessed to determine their value or importance to the community.

A range of criteria have been developed for assessing the significance which embody the values contained in the Burra Charter. The Burra Charter provides principles and guidelines for the conservation and management of cultural heritage places within Australia.

Following are the criteria which will be used to assess the Aboriginal significance of the study area:

Social Value (sometimes termed "Aboriginal" value) which refers to the spiritual, traditional, historical or contemporary associations and attachments which the place or area has for the present day Aboriginal community.

Historic Value refers to an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history.

Research Potential an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history.

Rarity refers to an item that possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Representativeness an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places or cultural or natural environments (or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places or cultural or natural environments).

8.2 Assessment

Social Values

Early descriptions by Collins in 1793 indicate that this was a highly significant area to the Aboriginal community. He describes the Aboriginal people of Sydney choosing a location encompassing the study area for "the performance of any of their rites and ceremonies" indicating the significance of the area to the Aboriginal community. The area continued to be used as an Aboriginal ceremonial and meeting place throughout the following years and a "place whence they derived so many comforts and so much shelter in bad weather" (Collins 1802:Oct 1976). A painting by John Rae shows Aboriginal people camping at the site in 1850 at the same time that Europeans were celebrating the construction of the railway.

Historic Values

The study area lies within an important trade and movement corridor between Cockle Bay and Botany Bay for Aboriginal people. It demonstrates the historic values associated with the occupation and ceremonial use of the site demonstrating Aboriginal lifeways.

Research Potential

Prior to the arrival of Europeans, the study area was an attractive location for Aboriginal people as it had access to Blackwattle Creek, Shea's Creek, Cockle Bay and the extensive surrounding swamplands which extended from the University of Sydney to Centennial Park. The importance of the site continued throughout the contact period. Archaeological investigations have the potential to reveal substantial information about the precontact and contact Aboriginal occupation of the study area and immediate surrounds and contribute further information about the Aboriginal occupation of the Sydney Basin.

Rarity

The Botany Lowlands sand dunes are a rare example of an Aeolian sand body which has the potential to contain thousands of years of evidence of Aboriginal occupation. The study area itself is a rare example of an Aboriginal ceremonial and meeting place and campsite in the Sydney Basin as described by Collins in 1793.

Representativeness

The study area is an important and good representative example of a ceremonial and meeting place and campsite within the Sydney Basin which can provide significant information about the precontact and contact Aboriginal occupation of the area.

8.3 Statement of Significance

Early descriptions by Collins in 1793 indicate that this was a highly significant area to the Aboriginal community. He describes the Aboriginal people of Sydney choosing a location encompassing the study area for "the performance of any of their rites and ceremonies" indicating the significance of the area to the Aboriginal community. The area continued to be used as an Aboriginal ceremonial and meeting place throughout the following years and a "place whence they derived so many comforts and so much shelter in bad weather" (Collins 1802:Oct 1976). A painting by John Rae shows Aboriginal people camping at the site in 1850 at the same time that Europeans were celebrating the construction of the railway. The study area lies within an important trade and movement corridor between Cockle Bay and Botany Bay for Aboriginal people. It demonstrates the historic values associated with the occupation and ceremonial use of the site demonstrating Aboriginal lifeways. Prior to the arrival of Europeans, the study area was an attractive location for Aboriginal people as it had access to Blackwattle Creek, Shea's Creek, Cockle Bay and the extensive surrounding swamplands which extended from the University of Sydney to Centennial Park. The importance of the site continued throughout the contact period. Archaeological investigations have the potential to reveal substantial information about the precontact and contact Aboriginal occupation of the study area and immediate surrounds and contribute further information about the Aboriginal occupation of the Sydney Basin. The Botany Lowlands sand dunes are a rare example of an Aeolian sand body which has the potential to contain thousands of years of evidence of Aboriginal occupation. The study area itself is a rare example of an Aboriginal ceremonial and meeting place and campsite in the Sydney Basin as described by Collins in 1793. The study area is an important and good representative example of a ceremonial and meeting place and campsite within the Sydney Basin which can provide significant information about the precontact and contact Aboriginal occupation of the area.

This site is of State heritage significance due to its social, historic and rarity values.

9.0 IMPACT & MITIGATION

IMPACT
MITIGATION

9 IMPACT & MITIGATION

9.1 Impact

The proposal which is the subject of the REF includes the following:

- Removal of selected trees.
- Site services isolation.
- Demolition of Building 4 (1960's building) and all connecting bridge links on the site.
- Construction of temporary works (for on-site truck turning, hoardings, site amenities, support gantry's and site services connections).
- Removal of hazardous material and the services strip out of buildings 1, 2 and 3.

The above works will have minimal impact on subsurface archaeological deposits. The above works will be undertaken with minimal disturbance to the natural ground surface. Any disturbance should be within fill introduced to level the site prior to construction of the school. It is therefore not expected that subsurface archaeological deposits will be impacted upon by the proposal.

9.2 Mitigation

The following mitigation measures are recommended to ensure that subsurface archaeological deposits are not impacted upon:

- Excavation will not occur to remove the selected trees. The trees will be cut and grinding of the stumps to existing ground level will occur.

- Demolition of Building 4: The geotechnical investigations indicate that the western side of the site, where Building 4 is located, contains approximately 1.5m of fill. Removal of the slab, within the fill, should not disturb Aboriginal archaeological deposits. Removal of the slab should be undertaken under the supervision of an archaeologist to ensure that the natural ground surface is not disturbed. The footings should not be removed without an AHIP.

- Any excavation for temporary works which will include ground disturbance or excavation such as services connection or for construction of a turning bay should be monitored by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist to ensure that such disturbance is only within introduced fill and that the natural ground surface is not disturbed.

10.0 LEGISLATION

NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE ACT 1974
HERITAGE ACT 1977

10 LEGISLATION

10.1 National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974

The *National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) provides statutory protection for all Aboriginal "objects". The NPW Act is administered by the Office of Environment & Heritage. Section 90 of the NPW Act details the provisions for the issue of a written consent (an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit) to impact upon an Aboriginal object. An object is defined as:

> ***"Aboriginal object"*** *means any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains.*

Part 6 of the Act states that it is an offence to harm or desecrate an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place, without an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP). As it is highly unlikely that Aboriginal objects will be harmed by the proposal an AHIP will not be required.

11.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

11 RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made on the basis of:

- The provisions of the National Parks & Wildlife Act 1977 which states it is an offence to harm or desecrate an Aboriginal object.
- The results of the assessment detailed in this report.

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED THAT:

1. Demolition of Building 4: The building can be demolished to the slab. In respect of removal of the slab, the geotechnical investigations indicate that the western side of the site, where Building 4 is located, contains approximately 1.5m of fill. Removal of the slab should be undertaken under the supervision of an archaeologist to ensure that the natural ground surface is not disturbed. The footings should not be removed without an AHIP.

2. In respect of removal of selected trees, excavation or ground disturbance should not occur to remove the trees. The trees should be cut and the stumps ground to existing ground level.

3. Any excavation for temporary works which will include ground disturbance or excavation such as services connection or for construction of a turning bay should be monitored by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist to ensure that such disturbance is only within introduced fill and that the natural ground surface is not disturbed.

4. An Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit will not be required for the works detailed in this report. If the scope of works change, a further assessment of those works should be undertaken.

5. If any previously undetected Aboriginal objects are unexpectedly uncovered all work must cease in the vicinity of that object whilst further advice is being sought from the consultant and the Department of Environment & Heritage.

6. All employees, contractors and subcontractors engaged on this project should be provided with an induction outlining the significance of the site and their responsibilities under the *National Parks & Wildlife Act*.

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REFERENCES

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PHOTOGRAPHS

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1: Open area in south east of property. Camera facing south east.

Photograph 2: Car park gate in south west of property. Camera facing south.

Photograph 3: Car park in south west of property. Camera facing south.

Photograph 4: Car park in south west of property. Camera facing west.

Photograph 5: Car park gate in south west of property. Camera facing north west.

Photograph 6: Central area of property under walkway. Camera facing north.

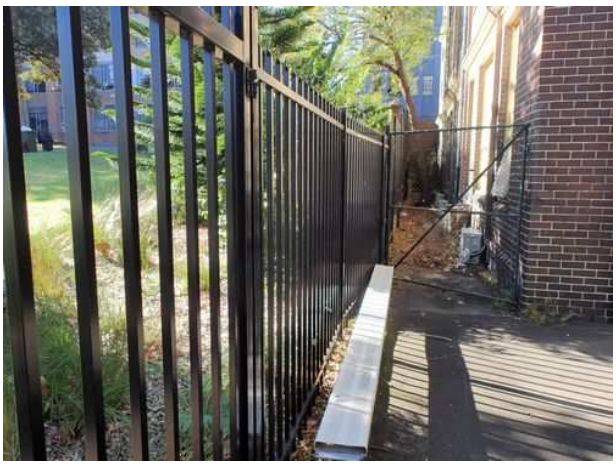
Photograph 7: Open area in north west of property. Camera facing south east.

Photograph 8: Open area in centre of property. Camera facing north east.

Photograph 9: Open area in north of property. Camera facing west.

Photograph 10: Open area in north east of property. Camera facing east.

Photograph 11: Open area in north east of property. Camera facing north east.



Photograph 12: North east corner of property. Camera facing est.

Photograph 13: North east corner of property. Camera facing est.

Photograph 14: Cleveland Street facing east from south west corner of study area

Photograph 15: Chalmers Street facing south from north east corner of study area

Photograph 16: Prince Alfred park and study area boundary facing north from south west corner of study area

Photograph 17: Cleveland Street facing west from south west corner of study area

Photograph 18: Cleveland Street facing east from south west corner of study area

Photograph 19: Cleveland Street facing east from south west corner of study area

Photograph 20: Prince Alfred park facing north from north west corner of study area

Photograph 21: Prince Alfred park and study area boundary facing south from north west corner of study area

APPENDIX A

AHIMS SEARCH

APPENDIX A: AHIMS SEARCH

Office of Environment & Heritage

NSW

AHIMS Web Services (AWS)
Search Result

Purchase Order/Reference : OA297
Client Service ID : 282289

Comber Consultants Pty Limited

Date: 21 May 2017

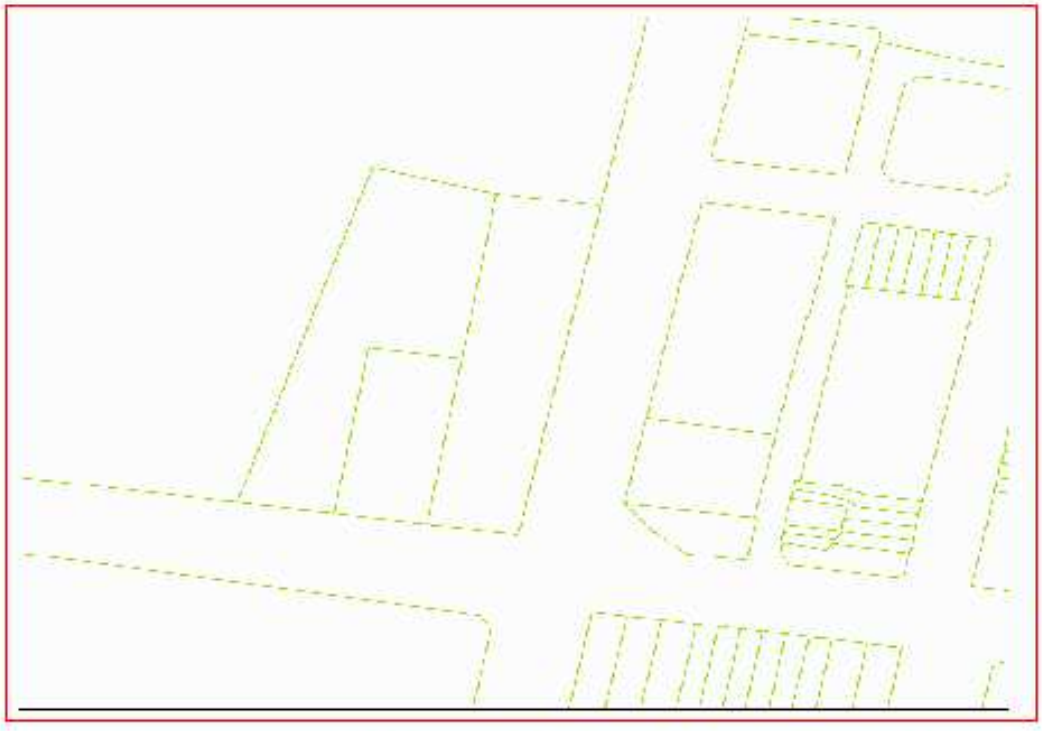
76 Edwin Street
North Croydon New South Wales 2132
Attention: Jillian Comber

Email: jillian.comber@comber.net.au

Dear Sir or Madam:

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Lot : 1, DP:DP797483 with a Buffer of 50 meters, conducted by Jillian Comber on 21 May 2017.

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of the Office of the Environment and Heritage AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

0	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *

COMBER
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ARCHAEOLOGY – HERITAGE – MEDIATION – ARBITRATION

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