

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF FAIRFIELD SUSTAINABLE
RESOURCE CENTRE

WETHERILL PARK, FAIRFIELD

HISTORICAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

Report to DFP Planning Pty Ltd on behalf of Fairfield City Council

May 2018





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Apex Archaeology has been commissioned by DFP Planning to undertake an historical heritage due diligence assessment to support a Development Application (DA) for the expansion of the Fairfield Sustainable Resource Centre (SRC). It is a requirement to prepare an archaeological assessment considering both European and Indigenous archaeological values of the area. This report details the results of the European heritage assessment of the study area.

The SRC is located in Wetherill Park approximately 25 kilometres east of Sydney Central Business District. It is located within the City of Fairfield Local Government Area (LGA).

The Fairfield SRC is bounded by Prospect Creek to the north and east, Widemere Road to the west and Hassall Street to the south. The study area comprises approximately 3ha in total.

A site inspection of the study area on 5 September 2017 did not identify any historical archaeological material within the area.

The Aboriginal heritage values of the site are detailed in a separate Aboriginal due diligence report.

Although the study area falls within two land grants made in the earliest days of the establishment of the colony, the area contains no evidence of the historical use of the area by the early settlers of the Fairfield region. The area does not contain any potential for archaeological deposits relating to this early use of the site. The SRC is not considered to have any heritage significance, and therefore the proposed development would not impact on the heritage significance of the site.

It was concluded:

- No previously registered historical sites are located within the study area assessed for this project.
- No archaeological material was identified on the ground surface of the SRC study area.
- The study area has been disturbed through previous land use activities.
- The study area has no historical significance.
- The proposed development will not have any heritage impacts.
- This assessment was based on previous archaeological work undertaken within the wider Fairfield area, historical research, an understanding of the relevant legislation, and a visual inspection of the study area.



Therefore, the following recommendations have been made:

1. NO FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

No further historical archaeological assessment is required for the site prior to the commencement of development works. This report should be submitted in support of the development application for the site.

2. IDENTIFICATION OF UNANTICIPATED ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL

Should unanticipated archaeological material be encountered during site works, all work in the vicinity of the find must cease and an archaeologist contacted to make an assessment of the find. Further archaeological assessment may be required prior to the recommencement of works. Any historical objects must be reported to the OEH under Division 9, Section 146 of the Heritage Act.



Apex Archaeology would like to acknowledge the Aboriginal people who are the traditional custodians of the land in which this project is located. Apex Archaeology would also like to pay respect to Elders both past and present.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

The following register documents the development and issue of the document entitled 'Vermont Estate Central Precinct: 45 Wells Street, Historical Heritage Assessment', prepared by Apex Archaeology in accordance with its quality management system.

Revision	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Comment	Issue Date
1 – Draft	Jenni Bate	Leigh Bate	Initial preparation	14 September 2017
2 – Draft	Jenni Bate	Stephen Earp/Kirk Osborne	Client Review	23 November 2017
3 – Final	Jenni Bate		Report finalisation	7 May 2018



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

AHIP	Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit
ASIRF	Aboriginal Site Impact Recording Form
BP	Before Present, defined as before 1 January 1950.
DA	Development Application
DECCW	The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water – now OEH
Due Diligence	Taking reasonable and practical steps to determine the potential for an activity to harm Aboriginal objects under the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> and whether an application for an AHIP is required prior to commencement of any site works, and determining the steps to be taken to avoid harm
Due Diligence Code of Practice	The DECCW Sept 2010 <i>Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales</i>
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GSV	Ground Surface Visibility
JPG	Johnson Property Group
ka	Kiloannus, a unit of time equating to 1,000 years
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
LPI	Lands and Property Information
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
LGM	Last Glacial Maximum
NHL	National Heritage List
OEH	The Office of Environment and Heritage of the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet
SEPP	State Environment Planning Policy
SEE	Statement of Environmental Effects
SHI	State Heritage Inventory
SHR	State Heritage Register
SoHI	Statement of Heritage Impact



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Apex Archaeology has been commissioned by DFP Planning to undertake an Aboriginal heritage due diligence assessment to support a Development Application (DA) for the expansion of the Fairfield Sustainable Resource Centre (SRC). It is a requirement to prepare an archaeological assessment considering both European and Indigenous archaeological values of the area. This report details the results of the European heritage assessment of the study area.

1.1 STUDY AREA

The SRC is located in Wetherill Park approximately 25 kilometres east of Sydney Central Business District (Figure 1). It is located within the City of Fairfield Local Government Area (LGA).

The Fairfield SRC is bounded by Prospect Creek to the north and east, Widemere Road to the west and Hassall Street to the south (the study area). The SRC comprises approximately 3ha in total. The proposed impact area is a smaller section of the former Canal Road reserve, which will be infilled as part of the proposal, and an area of ground to the east of the Canal Road reserve. Further details of the study area can be seen in Figure 2.

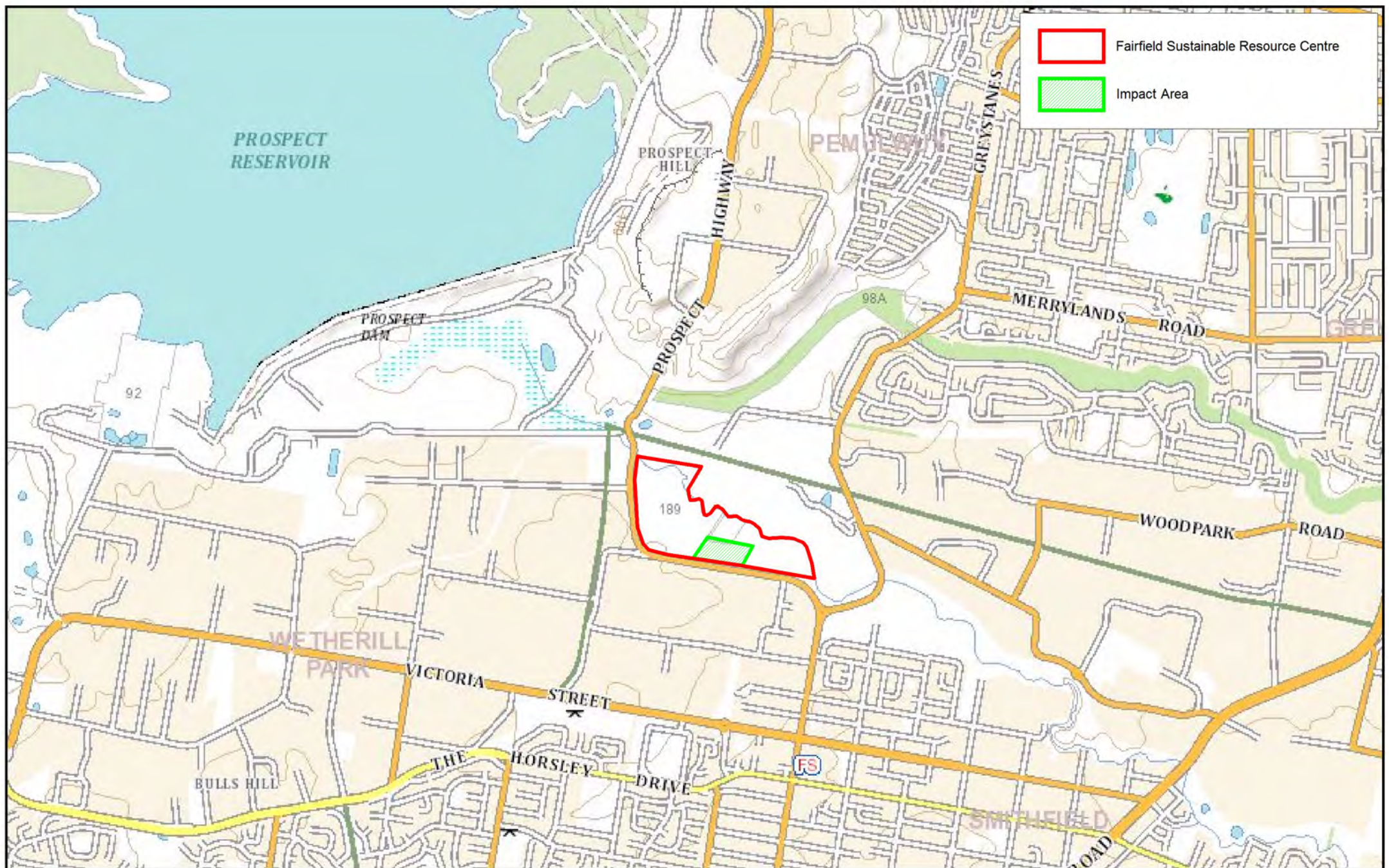
1.2 NSW HERITAGE LEGISLATION

1.2.1 HERITAGE ACT 1977

The *Heritage Act 1977* (as amended) (the Heritage Act) provides protection for historical archaeological deposits, relics, structures, buildings, and features within NSW. These may be identified on the State Heritage Register (SHR) or an active Interim Heritage Order.

Under the Heritage Act, the Minister appoints the Heritage Council, which is responsible for heritage in NSW. The Council includes community, conservation and government experts. The Heritage Division provides operational support to the Council and helps communities to identify important heritage places and relics, as well as guidance on how to provide care for those items. It also provides funding and support for community heritage projects and maintains the NSW Heritage Database, which is a list of all heritage items included on statutory heritage lists within NSW.

Guidance for undertaking heritage assessments is provided by the NSW Heritage Division 1996 NSW Heritage Manual, and includes criteria to assist in assessing the significance of items.



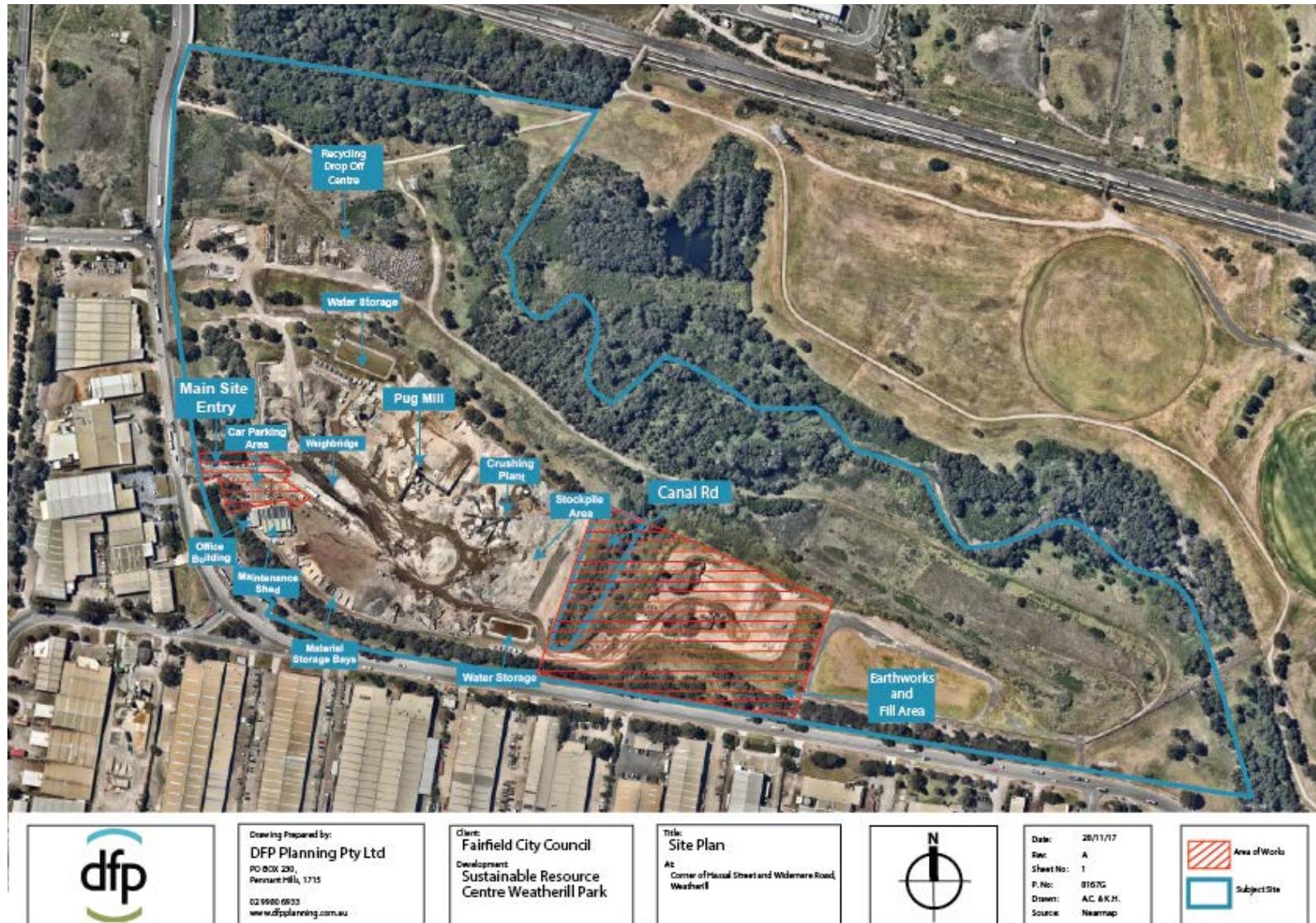


Figure 2: Proposed layout of the SRC upgrade



1.2.2 ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT 1979

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) provides the environmental planning and assessment framework for NSW. Impacts on cultural heritage must be considered through the environmental impact assessment stage of any project. Generally, provision for the assessment of cultural heritage is made through statutory planning documents such as Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) or State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs).

1.2.2.1 FAIRFIELD LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 2012

The Fairfield LEP 2013 guides heritage conservation and assessment within the Fairfield LGA, with a number of heritage restrictions included. Clause 5.10(2)(c) states that archaeological sites may not be disturbed or excavated without development consent. Further, Clause 5.10(2)(e) identifies that no buildings may be erected on land within a heritage conservation area or which contains an Aboriginal object, without first obtaining development consent, and Clause 5.10(2)(f) states that development consent is required for the subdivision of land within a heritage conservation area, on which a heritage item is located, on which an Aboriginal object is located, or within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance. Exceptions to the requirement for development consent are detailed by Clause 5.10(3) and include low impact activities, or activities for the maintenance of a heritage item.

Clause 5.10(4) requires that the effect of any development on a heritage item or heritage conservation area must be considered, and 5.10(5) details that a heritage assessment is required for land which is within a heritage conservation zone.

Additionally, Clause 5.10(5) states that:

The consent authority may, before granting consent to any development:

- (a) on land on which a heritage item is located, or*
- (b) on land that is within a heritage conservation area, or*
- (c) on land that is within the vicinity of land referred to in paragraph (a) or (b),*

require a heritage management document to be prepared that assesses the extent to which the carrying out of the proposed development would affect the heritage significance of the heritage item or heritage conservation area concerned.

There are no heritage items within or in the vicinity of the study area.



1.2.2.2 FAIRFIELD CITYWIDE DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN 2002

The Fairfield Citywide Development Control Plan 2013 (DCP) provides development controls for any development activities within the Fairfield LGA. A number of clauses reference assessing the heritage significance of a proposed development area, including Chapter 3.13 Heritage Items, which details the objectives and controls applicable to heritage assessment and development in the vicinity of a heritage item.

1.3 METHODOLOGY

This Statement of Heritage Impact has been prepared with reference to the Fairfield City Council LEP 2013 and the Fairfield Citywide DCP 2013. It has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of *The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 2013* (Burra Charter) and the best practice standards as provided by the NSW Heritage Division of the Office of Environment and Heritage, including *Assessing Heritage Significance* (former Heritage Office, 2001) and *Statements of Heritage Impact* (former Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning 1996, revised 2002).

1.4 AUTHORS

This report has been prepared by Jenni Bate, Director and Archaeologist with Apex Archaeology, and Leigh Bate, Director and Archaeologist with Apex Archaeology.



2.0 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

2.1 LOCAL HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Following the establishment of the first European settlement at Sydney Cove in 1788, the need for additional agricultural land was identified, as Sydney Cove was considered unsuitable for farming. The first expedition led by Governor Philip, in April 1788, identified hills to the south and named the area Bellevue. This hill is believed to be the hill now known as Greystanes Hill at Prospect (Fairfield Council 1959). Further exploration of the area occurred, and by February 1790 Phillip recorded a small fresh water river six miles to the south of the area now known as Parramatta, which is in the proximity of the current area of Fairfield (Fairfield Council 1959).

The first land grants in the Fairfield area were made to fourteen settlers in June 1791 (Fairfield Council 1959). Initially the areas were fruitful and allowed the settlers to support themselves and their families in good manner, but as time went on hardships increased, until 1798 when many of the initial settlers had sold or rented their lands as they were unable to continue to support themselves (Rev Marsden 1798 in Fairfield Council 1959).

Most land holdings in the Fairfield area were smaller than the larger pastoral holdings found to the west (Kass 1993) and tended to be found along waterways. A number of land grants within the vicinity of the study area can be seen on the parish map dating to approximately the early 19th century (Figure 3), although due to changes in the landscape it can be difficult to accurately identify the location of the study area in relation to the original land grants. However, the study area appears to fall within the grants made to John Williams, a married carpenter, and John Brown, a married man (Fairfield Council 1959) with both grants comprising 50 acres (Figure 4). Both of these grants appear to be among those made in 1791 by Governor Phillip (Dunn, ND).

Limited information regarding these two gentlemen was available and further research was beyond the scope of this project.

A 1906 plan of the area shows minimal development within the area, with only one structure present at the north western portion of the study area (Figure 5). No other structures were recorded within the study area at this time. It was noted that the land to the south of the study area was “scrub”, although there was no such description applied to the land comprising the study area.

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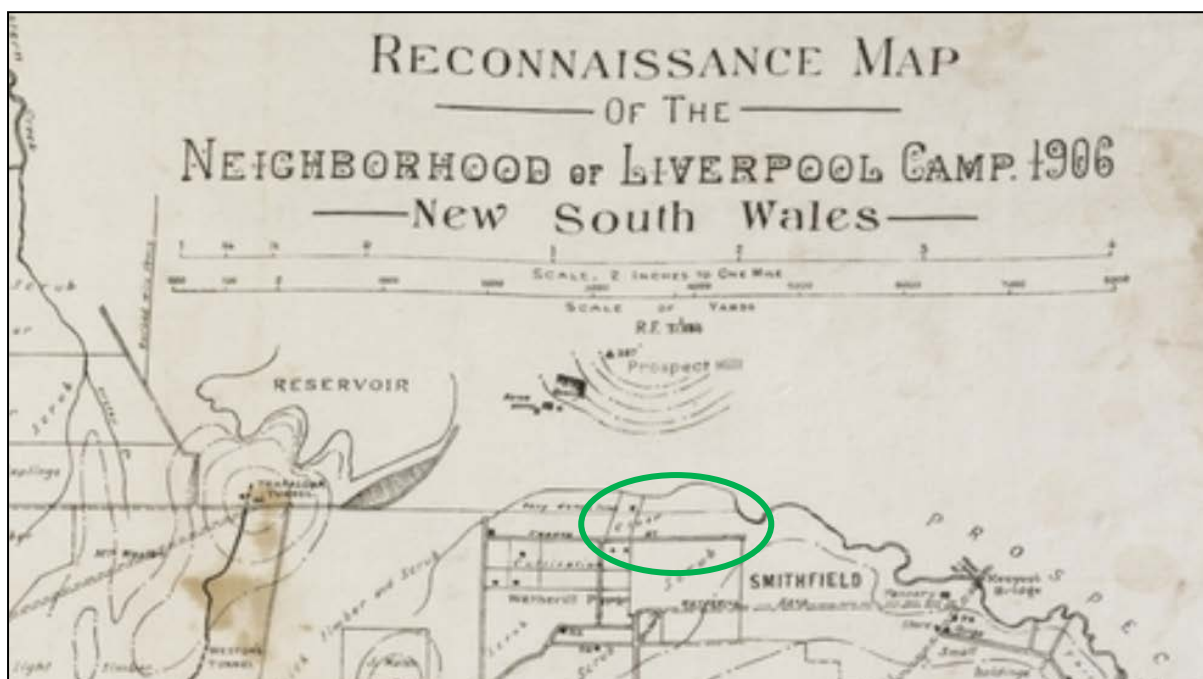


Figure 5: Detail from “Reconnaissance Map of the Neighborhood of Liverpool Camp, 1906”. Study area indicated in green.

By 1933, the area had been mostly cleared. Several small structures were visible along the alignment of the Canal Road reserve, and several others were present within the study area.



Figure 6: detail from 1930 aerial imagery. Study area indicated by green circle. Source: LPI 1930 22000 BW



Figure 7: detail of 1975 aerial imagery. Study area indicated by green circle. Source: LPI 1975 40000 BW

The 1975 aerial imagery showed further clearing within the study area, and at least one lot appears to have been used for crops. Other lots appeared to have been graded. The structures that were present along the Canal Road reserve had been removed. Between the late 1970s and 1980s the area was used as a land fill site, predominately for household refuse. When closed, this was sealed with a clay capping of approximately 1m deep.



Figure 8: Detail of 1991 aerial imagery. Study area indicated by green circle. Source: LPI 1991 25000 COL.

By 1991, the entirety of the study area had been cleared and initial works for the construction of the SRC had commenced. All structures within the area had been removed. In 1992, the Fairfield Sustainable Resource Centre (SRC) was opened on the site (Aust Gov 2011). The SRC is run as a stand-alone business unit of Fairfield City Council and recycles construction materials into new materials for use.

The study area has continued to be modified in response to the operational requirements of the SRC.

2.2 ITEMS OF HISTORICAL HERITAGE

Heritage items are listed on federal, state and local level statutory and non-statutory registers, with items of international heritage value listed on the World Heritage List. Federally, registers comprise the National Heritage List (NHL) and the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL), which are maintained by the Department of the Environment. The registers can be searched via the Australian Heritage Database which is available online. At the state level, items of significance are listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR) which is maintained by the Heritage Division of the Heritage Branch, and this register can be searched online as the NSW State Heritage Inventory (SHI). Locally, items of significance are listed on heritage schedules of Local Environmental Plans (LEPs).

2.2.1 NATIONAL AND COMMONWEALTH HERITAGE

No items within the study area were listed on the NHL or CHL, although the Hawkesbury's First Farms along Pitt Town Road were unsuccessfully nominated to

the NHL. Although the nomination was unsuccessful, the area is still considered to have high heritage significance.

2.2.2 STATE HERITAGE

A search of the SHI database identified a number of items listed on the SHR within the Fairfield LGA, although none are within or adjacent to the study area. Prospect Reservoir is located approximately 2km to the north west of the study area but the proposed development would not have any impact on the heritage values of the reservoir.

In addition, under Section 170 of the Heritage Act, State Government Agencies are required to maintain a record of all heritage items they own or operate, with these registers included on the SHI database. No items located within the study area were listed on Section 170 registers.

2.2.3 LOCAL HERITAGE

The Fairfield LEP 2013 lists 23 items of local heritage significance within Fairfield, with all items mapped on the Fairfield Heritage Maps. There were no historical items within the study area listed on the LEP; and no items located within or in the proximity of the study area (Figure 9).

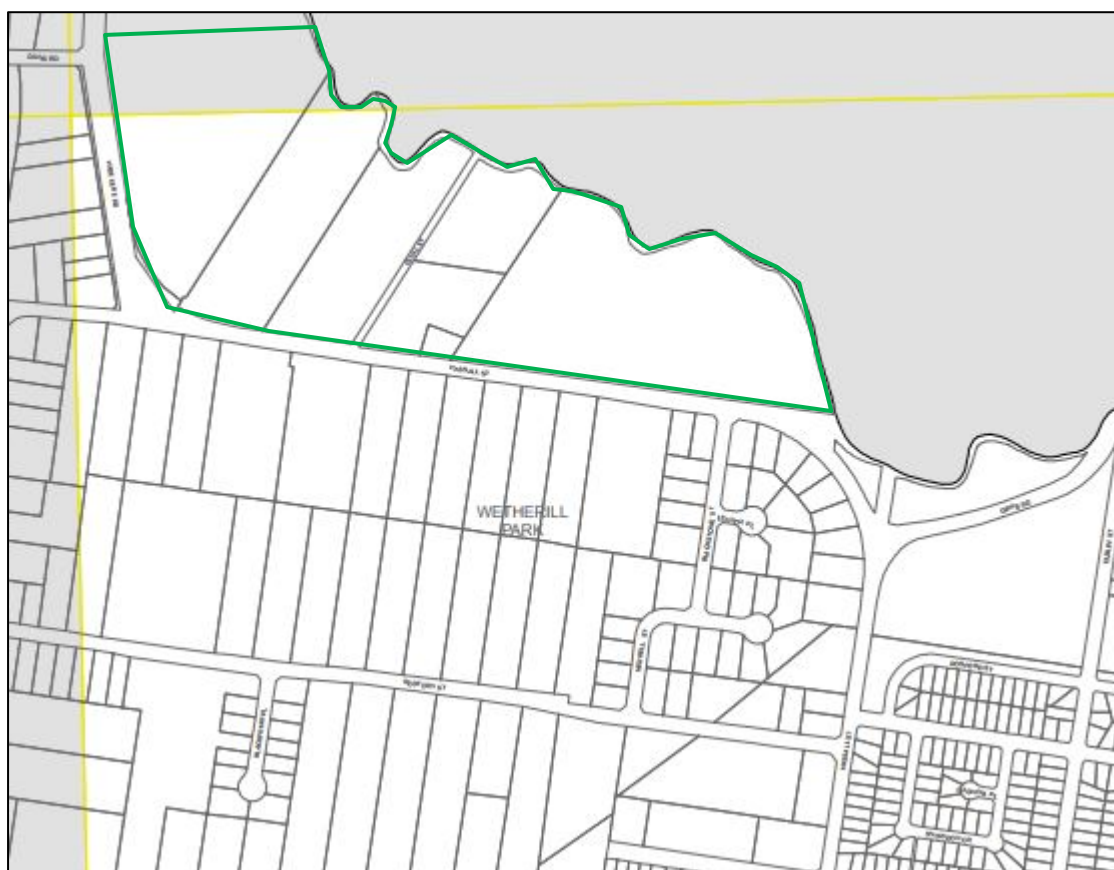


Figure 9: Detail of Fairfield LEP heritage maps, showing no heritage items in the vicinity of the SRC, marked in green. (Source: FLEP 2013 Sheet HER_015)

3.0 SITE INSPECTION

A pedestrian inspection of the lot was conducted on 5 September 2017 by Apex Archaeology archaeologist Leigh Bate. The site was inspected for any previously unrecorded historical elements and photographs were taken to provide context.

3.1 SITE ANALYSIS

The study area currently contains a materials recycling plant, and includes truck access, storage for materials, a weighbridge, and other machinery for the recycling of construction materials.



Plate 1: General view of study area, showing landscape modification within the site.

The study area has been modified through the introduction of material to the site and in many areas there are several metres of introduced material. Many areas adjacent to roads are heavily vegetated, with introduced weeds. The formal Canal Road reserve in particular is densely vegetated to the point that the ground surface can no longer be seen. Plate 3 overlooks the former easement, but it is difficult to accurately depict the depth of fill surrounding the former easement. It appears to be approximately 4-5 metres in depth.

The site has been heavily impacted through the construction of the recycling plant and no evidence of heritage items was identified during the site inspection. All structures within the area were removed prior to the establishment of the SRC plant.



Plate 2: General view across study area. Note introduced spoil heap to the left of the image.



Plate 3: View across former Canal Road reserve.



4.0 HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

There are no known items of heritage significance within or adjacent to the study area. The site is not considered to have historical archaeological potential. The proposed development works are not likely to impact on any items of historical significance.

4.1 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposed development is for an expansion of the SRC to increase its processing capacity to up to 550,000 tonnes of recyclable construction material per year. The proposal is also seeking to fill a gully running north-south through the centre of the site, known locally as 'Canal Road' and fill a small area of land to the south east of the gully, fronting Hassall Street.

The following is proposed:

- A processing capacity of up to 550,000 tonnes of recycled construction materials per year.
- Importation of approximately 31,000m³ of Virgin Excavated Natural Material (VENM) for site fill.
- Site earthworks and grading to establish a level site, including the construction of batters.
- Removal of a small stormwater basin and construction of a new larger sediment basin and stormwater harvesting basin.
- Receiving, processing, recycling and storage of the following waste material, consistent with existing operations and EPA licensing:
 - VENM;
 - Building and demolition waste including roof tiles, clay bricks, concrete;
 - Asphalt waste (including asphalt resulting from road construction and waterproofing);
 - Spoil and Soils.
- Modifications to the main site entry and exit and carparking area to provide additional car parking spaces.
- Change to the site operating hours to the following:
 - Receiving and loading of trucks – 24hrs/7 days;
 - Crushing operations 5.00am – 6.00pm (Monday to Friday);
 - Pug Mill operations 3.00am – 4.00pm (Monday to Friday).
- Vegetation and tree removal to facilitate the proposed works and replacement tree planting.
- Associated infrastructure and services works.



4.2 PROPOSAL IMPACT

4.2.1 PHYSICAL FABRIC, ATTRIBUTES AND SETTING

The proposed development works would not impact on any physical fabric, attributes or the setting of heritage items.

A separate Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence assessment has been prepared by Apex Archaeology to consider any potential Aboriginal archaeological resources which may be present. This assessment did not identify any constraints relating the Aboriginal cultural heritage for the site.

4.2.2 HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Although the study area falls within two land grants made in the earliest days of the establishment of the colony, the area contains no evidence of the historical use of the area by the early settlers of the Fairfield region. The area does not contain any potential for archaeological deposits relating to this early use of the site. The SRC is not considered to have any heritage significance, and therefore the proposed development would not impact on the heritage significance of the site.



5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

- No previously registered historical sites are located within the study area assessed for this project.
- No archaeological material was identified on the ground surface of the SRC study area.
- The study area has been disturbed through previous land use activities.
- The study area has no historical significance.
- The proposed development will not have any heritage impacts.
- This assessment was based on previous archaeological work undertaken within the wider Fairfield area, historical research, an understanding of the relevant legislation, and a visual inspection of the study area.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

3. NO FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

No further historical archaeological assessment is required for the site prior to the commencement of development works. This report should be submitted in support of the development application for the site.

4. IDENTIFICATION OF UNANTICIPATED ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL

Should unanticipated archaeological material be encountered during site works, all work in the vicinity of the find must cease and an archaeologist contacted to make an assessment of the find. Further archaeological assessment may be required prior to the recommencement of works. Any historical objects must be reported to the OEH under Division 9, Section 146 of the Heritage Act.



6.0 REFERENCES

Australian Government, 2011. *National Waste Policy: Case Study*.

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