

APPENDIX H

Archaeological Assessment



WAGGA WAGGA BASE HOSPITAL

BASELINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

FOR WEIR PHILLIPS



The Hospital after the addition of the second wing.

December 2012



ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HERITAGE MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

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CONTENTS

Exe	cutive Summary	2
1.	Introduction	4
1.1	Background	4
1.2	Aims and Objectives	5
1.3	Report Outline	6
1.4	Authorship and Acknowledgements	6
2.	Aboriginal Archaeology	9
2.1	Regional Archaeological Context	9
2.2	Local Archaeological Context	10
2.3	Known Aboriginal Sites	10
2.4	Predictive Model	11
2.5	Site Inspection	11
2.6	Conclusions and Recommendations	14
З.	Historical Archaeology	
3.1	Summary History	16
3.2	Impact of Development	20
3.3	Historical Archaeological Potential	21
3.4	Conclusions and Recommendations	25
	Conclusions	25
Refe	erences	
Арр	endix 1: AHIMS Search Results	27

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- In August 2009, Weir Phillips Architects engaged Archaeological and Heritage Management Solutions Pty Ltd (AHMS) on behalf of NSW Health Infrastructure to undertake a baseline Aboriginal and Historical Archaeological Assessment of the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital;
- The report was completed in December 2009, and has now been updated to address impacts of Phase 2/3 development proposal;
- NSW Health Infrastructure is proposing to upgrade the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital requiring a combination of the construction of new buildings, upgrade of some existing structures, new landscaping and car parking and the installation of services.

Aboriginal Archaeology:

- A review of previous archaeological investigations of the Wagga area and the geographic context of the site indicate it is likely that the site contains low to moderate potential to retain intact evidence of past Aboriginal occupation. Where present, this evidence is most likely to be seen in the form of stone artefacts, found either singly (as isolated finds) or as scatters across the landscape (e.g. open camp sites);
- No Aboriginal sites or places are known to be present within the study area;
- The results of an inspection of the study area revealed the entire hospital landscape has been disturbed by previous activities associated with the hospital. This was evident in the lack of original vegetation present; and the homogenized nature and general disturbance of topsoils expected to a depth of approximately 150 mm across the Study Area. This is relevant as topsoil is most likely to retain evidence of past human occupation and disturbance to its integrity will affect the archaeological research values of any stone artefact deposits present;
- This assessment was not a full Aboriginal archaeological Assessment and did not include consideration of cultural heritage values of the site for the local Aboriginal community. Prior to development it is recommended that the local Aboriginal community be consulted to determine whether the subject land has any Aboriginal cultural significance.

Historical Archaeology:

• The study area does not appear to have been used for Non-Indigenous (prehospital) purposes prior to its acquisition in 1907 for the establishment of the new Wagga Wagga Base Hospital. It is likely to have been used for intermittent grazing prior to its acquisition for the hospital;

- From its opening in 1910, the hospital was almost constantly in need of modifications, improvements and additional buildings in order to satisfy the demands of the local and regional population;
- Historical archaeological resources relating to previous hospital structures and features are unlikely to survive at Wagga Wagga hospital site. There is no likelihood of historical archaeological features prior to the hospital occupation;
- The historical archaeological resources across the study area have been significantly disturbed by successive phases of hospital modification, demolition, landscaping and building. This has compromised the integrity and archaeological research value of the resource and/or removed it entirely;
- The proposed new development (Phase 2/3) will therefore have no impact on any significant historical archaeological resource.

Recommendations:

- On the basis of this report, no further formal archaeological investigation prior to development is warranted for Aboriginal archaeological constraints for the site prior to the proposed hospital upgrades because the study area has been heavily disturbed by continual construction and development of the site over time;
- Because this study only considered Aboriginal archaeological values, it is recommended that, prior to development, the local Aboriginal community is consulted to determine whether the subject land has any Aboriginal cultural significance;
- No further formal historical archaeological investigation is required prior to development based on the results of this survey.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

In August 2009, Archaeological and Management Solutions Pty Ltd (AHMS) was engaged to undertake a baseline Aboriginal and historical archaeological assessment of the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital at Docker and Edward Streets, Wagga Wagga, NSW (Figures 1 and 2). The report was completed in December 2009, and has now been updated to address revisions to the development proposal (December 2012).

NSW Health Infrastructure proposes to redevelop the hospital. The proposed development will be carried out as part of the phased delivery of the overall hospital redevelopment, which allows for the ongoing service provision from the existing hospital while new facilities are built. As phases are completed the relevant existing services will be decanted, allowing demolition of these buildings and the provision of new buildings and associated car parking in their place. The proposed development represents two of these phases.

The Phase 2/3 development will involve (see Figure 3):

- The delivery of 21,000m² GFA of new accommodation replacing the Acute Hospital, comprising expanded emergency department, helipad, imaging suite, operating theatres, sterile services, inpatient units, new procedure centre, critical care facilities, women's and children's health facilities, angiography and cardiac catheter suite, diagnostic services, increased support services, pharmacy and new main entrance (including cafe and retail area).
- A maximum height of 8 storeys, including a rooftop helipad;
- Demolition of the multi-storey Ward Building;
- Modified access arrangement from Edward Street;
- New car parking facilities; and
- Integrated landscaping.

The archaeological assessment has been prepared to inform a broader heritage impact assessment of the proposal by Weir Phillips Architects. In turn, the broader assessment will form part of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the hospital redevelopment project under Schedule 2, Part 3 of the Environmental Planning and

Assessment Regulation 2000 and Schedule 1, Clause 14 of State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011.

This report presents the results of the baseline archaeological assessment. It does not include a formal Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment (AHIA) in accordance with NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) guidelines, or Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with DECCW guidelines.¹ Nor does the report include a formal Historical Archaeological Assessment prepared in accordance with the Heritage Branch, Department of Planning (DOP), guidelines.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

Specific aims of the baseline archaeological assessment were to:

- 1. Identify known Aboriginal and historical archaeological elements and resources by searching relevant heritage registers and databases;
- Undertake desktop research and initial site inspection to identify areas of potential archaeological heritage sensitivity and produce overlays to determine whether any previous occupation and use of the study area (including now non-extant previous hospital occupation and use) is indicated;
- 3. Identify potential archaeological constraints and opportunities, including whether or not detailed significance assessment is required to inform any future environmental assessment reporting.

As the project is identified as State Significant Development and is subject to Section 89J of the Act which 'turns off' the Aboriginal archaeological provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and the relics provisions of the *Heritage Act 1977*, the report it does not include a section explaining statutory constraints and requirements.

Previous reports, surveys and other pertinent studies, undertaken in the locality, were reviewed to determine the potential for Aboriginal/historical archaeological sites to exist within the Study Area. Some secondary sources were reviewed to identify any historical item/sites that may not be heritage listed (e.g. on the NSW State Heritage Inventory (SHI) or the NSW State Heritage Register (SHR) or on non-statutory registers like the National Trust of Australia (NTA) Register).

¹ DECCW, April 2010.

1.3 Report Outline

The report follows the following structure:

Section 1 - Introduction and Background

Section 2 - Aboriginal Archaeology Baseline Assessment

Section 3 - Historical Archaeology Baseline Assessment

References

Appendix 1 - AHIMS Search Results

1.4 Authorship and Acknowledgements

The baseline assessment was originally drafted by Lisa Newell, Associate Director, AHMS with the assistance of Laura Matarese, Consultant, AHMS. The historical information was provided by Alice Fuller, Heritage Consultant, Weir Phillips Architects and Heritage Consultants. This updated version was amended (December 2012) by Matthew Kelly, Senior Archaeologist, AHMS.



Figure 1: General Location of Study Area within Wagga Wagga (study area coloured purple).



Figure 2: Location of Study Area (outlined in red).

7



Figure 3: Layout of the Phase 2/3 development which is shown as the green area.

2. ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGY

2.1 Regional Archaeological Context

The study area is located on the Murrumbidgee River Plain. The archaeology of this area has been recorded irregularly, with most studies relating to housing developments or small infrastructure developments/upgrades.

There is general consistency in the types and distribution of archaeological sites identified in this region with those found throughout eastern Australia. The distribution, density and size of sites are largely dependent on environmental context. For instance, middens are found in close proximity to marine, estuarine and less often, freshwater bodies. Rock shelters are only found in areas of exposed sandstone escarpments, and grinding grooves are found in areas of exposed flat beds of sandstone.

During a series of surveys on the Murrumbidgee River Plain, Witter² formulated a site distribution pattern which suggested that:

- Artefact scatters, mounds, scarred eucalypt trees and cypress pines with torch bark scars tend to occur near major flood channels;
- Scarred eucalypt trees, fired clay hearths and artefact scatters may occur near minor flood channels and temporary swamps, especially when sand features are present; and
- Isolated artefacts of flaked or abraded stone and scarred eucalypt trees may be found scattered across the plains.

Investigations carried out since Witter's study have tended to confirm the patterns described above. Environmental and topographic context is an important determinant of the size and nature of archaeological sites in the Wagga region and across the Murrumbidgee Plain. The most commonly reported pattern in the region is scatters of stone artefacts (either isolated finds or open camp sites) found near watercourses. Surveys and excavations carried out within the Wagga region³ have revealed that quartz is the dominant raw material found amongst the stone assemblages. However quartzite, chert and silcrete are also occasionally represented.

² Witter, 1982a, 1982b.

³ Kelly, 1980; Silcox, 1986; Navin Officer, 1998; Navin Officer, 2002; as cited in AHMS 2008.

2.2 Local Archaeological Context

Most previous archaeological investigations in the Wagga area have been carried out to satisfy impact assessment requirements for development. Archaeological excavations and surveys have been carried out in Gumly Gumly⁴; along the Wagga Wagga to Darlington Point transmission line⁵ and along the Wagga Wagga to Wodonga natural gas pipeline⁶. These investigations were carried out on a variety of landforms on the margins of wetlands or Murrumbidgee River floodplain and tributaries. In short, the majority of investigation sites were located near water sources. Artefacts were recovered on most landforms and predominantly consisted of low density stone artefact scatter sites exposed by erosion or soil disturbance.

The results of the previous archaeological excavations and surveys have been used to develop a model that explains and also predicts the location and distribution of Aboriginal occupation across the landscape. The most common patterns reported in the Wagga area include:

- Sites are located adjacent to watercourses, particularly within 100 metres of permanent streams; and
- Sites are located on flat elevated locations, particularly on ridges and crests.

Each of the patterns described above is supported by the results of test excavation on at least one or more sites in the Wagga area. Therefore any of these patterns may also apply to landforms within the current study area. The local excavations also generally report silcrete and tuff as the dominant local stone types used for making artefacts.

2.3 Known Aboriginal Sites

For the purposes of Aboriginal heritage background research, searches of the following databases were undertaken: Local Environmental Plans (LEP), the State Heritage Register, the Native Title Tribunal website, and the DECCW Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS).

The DECCW AHIMS search was carried out (on 1 September 2009) for sites within a 5km radius of the study area to ascertain the types of sites that could be expected in the area. No sites were listed in this area (**Appendix 1**).

The study area falls within the municipality of the Wagga Wagga City Council, which has no Aboriginal heritage items listed on its Local Environmental Plan or

⁴ Silcox, 1987.

⁵ Hiscock, 1983, as cited in AHMS 2008.

⁶ Navin Officer, 1998.

Development Control Plan. Nor were any items listed in the area on the NSW State Heritage Register. The search of the Native Tribunal website (on 28 July 2009) established that there are currently no Native Title claims active in the Study Area.

2.4 Predictive Model

The topography and distribution of natural resources near the study area generally indicates a potential for:

- Stone artefact deposits within intact topsoils below current ground;
- Surface scatters of stone artefacts in areas of soil exposure caused by erosion;
- Isolated finds anywhere across the landscape; and
- Cultural scarring on old growth trees.

In particular, it is predicted that in-situ open artefact scatters may be found buried below current ground surfaces in areas where intact topsoil (i.e. A-horizon soils) remains.⁷ In areas where A-horizon soils have been removed or substantially disturbed by erosion or land uses (as at the hospital site) it is unlikely that in-situ sub-surface deposits remain. Isolated finds may be found anywhere across the landscape, a pattern that holds true throughout NSW. There is also no potential for rockshelter sites, axe grinding grooves or rock engravings because the study area does not contain outcropping bedrock.

Previous investigations throughout the Wagga region indicate a high density of sites in association with fresh water drainage lines, particularly along larger (higher order) creeks and rivers. Reports also indicate high densities of sites are found on the fringes of wetlands and on flat elevated landforms.

In summary, the results of previous archaeological investigations in the Wagga area and the geographical context of the site indicate the study area falls within an area of low-moderate archaeological potential.

2.5 Site Inspection

An inspection of the study area was carried out on the 10th of September 2009 by Lisa Newell, Associate Director, AHMS (see Figures 3 and 4).

The general study area of Wagga Wagga Hospital is in a relatively elevated location within an entirely urban landscape and appears to have been 100% disturbed through previous hospital uses. The current study area for Phase 2/3 (December

⁷ This is because topsoil has the potential to contain stone artefacts.

2012) is manifest as car park and developed allotments on the eastern side of the hospital complex. No Aboriginal sites or objects were found during the inspection. There was no evidence of original vegetation and no evidence of endemic old growth trees. There were no areas where natural soil profiles were exposed or visible.

Hospital uses including sequences of major building construction, services and landscaping over the past 100 years, have most likely resulted in the upper soil horizon (A-horizon) across the site being thoroughly disturbed. Hospital use and major construction activities are likely to have disturbed and homogenised the remnant A-horizon profile to a depth of at least 150 mm below current ground. Any Aboriginal artefacts within the homogenised soils would have been vertically and probably horizontally displaced, compromising the stratigraphic integrity and scientific research value of any such deposits.

The landscape disturbances described above have most likely removed or disturbed portions of original topsoil across the study area. Original topsoil is of interest within erosional soil landscapes because Aboriginal cultural deposits are found within topsoil but are not usually found within the (lower) sub-soils. The precise extent of disturbance caused to original topsoils could not be determined during the survey, primarily because soil exposures were limited.

The following conclusions regarding site disturbance have been made based on survey observations:

- Across the entire site, the majority of original vegetation has been removed. The process of vegetation clearing (especially removal of tree roots) and resultant construction activities has significantly disturbed original topsoils. Aboriginal objects within the affected soils would have been upturned; and
- Previous land uses would have disturbed remnant original topsoils to a depth of approximately 150 mm. The stratigraphic integrity of any of the Aboriginal objects located within this 'disturbance zone' would have been compromised.



Figure 4. View facing south-east across the carpark, showing lack of original vegetation and carpark.



Figure 5: View to south with main hospital building at right.

2.6 Conclusions and Recommendations

No Aboriginal sites or objects were identified during the survey; therefore there are currently no direct constraints on development of the site with regard to Aboriginal heritage.

In the event that no Aboriginal sites or objects are found during a site inspection (as in the case for the current study area), an assessment of archaeological potential, based on our understanding of local archaeological patterns and our assessment of landscape and soil disturbance occurs.

Conclusions

In regards to archaeological potential, the following conclusions can apply:

- Archaeological patterning in the Wagga area and across the Murrumbidgee Plains indicates the subject land (prior to hospital uses) would have had low to moderate archaeological potential. This assessment is based on its relatively flat, elevated landform. Previous archaeological investigations in the Wagga area have shown that landscapes similar to this have low to moderate archaeological potential;
- The original topsoil across the study area has been significantly disturbed by past land uses, compromising the integrity and archaeological research values of any stone artefact deposits present within affected soils. In-situ artefact deposits are unlikely to occur, however, there remains some likelihood of isolated artefacts surviving in disturbed contexts.

Recommendations

- No further formal archaeological investigation is required prior to development based on the results of this survey. In our opinion there are no direct Aboriginal *archaeological* constraints on the proposed hospital upgrade because the development will not involve physical disturbance of any known Aboriginal sites or potential archaeological deposits (PADs);
- Our current investigation was limited to an assessment of archaeological potential and did not consider Aboriginal cultural values. Prior to development it is recommended that the local Aboriginal communities be consulted to determine whether the subject land has any Aboriginal cultural significance;
- Given that there remains some likelihood that isolated artefacts may be exposed, disturbed, discovered or excavated during development works,

local Aboriginal communities should be consulted to determine how they may wish the artefacts to be retrieved, recorded and collected.

3. HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

3.1 Summary History

The historical summary provided in this report is based on a detailed history of the site and its historical and geographical context completed by Weir Phillips Architects and Heritage Consultants.

The Weir Phillips history (paraphrased) notes that:

The history of the subject site during the late nineteenth century is difficult to determine without a full title search. Parish maps indicate that the subject site was part of a 40 acre parcel of land owned by T. Byrnes, who also owned the adjoining 40 acres (**Figure 6**). Parish maps of this period do not show structures. In July 1885, 5 acres of Byrnes 40 acre lot was resumed for a gaol site (14 July, 1885). The land would never be used for this purpose.

In 1906 the Department of Justice agreed to surrender the 5 acre lot previously part of Byrne's parcel. The lot was by then located in Edward Street and was dedicated as a Hospital Site on 3 January, 1907. The first improvements to the new Edward Street site were made in August 1907, when trees were planted around the site and a substantial fence was erected. On the main Albury Road (later Bourke Street), a windbreak was planted to protect the site from the strong westerly winds and from dust.

By 1910, the site included the main hospital (the eastern wing of the current building), the original Nurses Quarters (separate building to the front and east of the main building), a mortuary and several outbuildings (**Figure 7**). The need for additional buildings was met in early 1916 with the construction of an additional brick building consisting of additional wards, day, duty and nurse's rooms. A western wing with a dedicated Children's Ward on the upper floor, was also completed by September 1922 (**Figure 8**).

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Figure 6: Detail from a Plan of Wagga Wagga, Parish of Wynyard. (NSW Department of Lands, 1889) (The site is indicated by the black arrow).



Figure 7: Official Opening. The building to the front of the Hospital is the Nurses Quarters (Morris, 1988).



Figure 8: The Hospital after the addition of the second wing (Morris, 1988)

Further works included extensions to the original nurse's home known as Rawson House (1918 and 1924), and a new nurse's home in 1936 facing Albury Road, later Docker Street (now the UNSW Building). Following completion of the new nurse's home, the old nurse's home was converted into wards and a new pathology building opened to the rear of the main building, attached to the original morgue.

Sewerage, hot running water and electricity were gradually added from the 1920s onwards within the hospital buildings.

By 1943 the hospital had grown into a complex of buildings, services, and landscapes including a kitchen garden to the south of the site (Figure 9).



Figure 9: Aerial photograph of Wagga Wagga Hospital, 1943. Key:

- 1. Main Building (now the Old Hospital Building)
- 2. Rawson House (private and intermediate wards)
- 3. Isolation Block
- 4. Kitchen and Staff Dining
- 5. Maternity Unit (later Robinson House)
- 6. Nurses Home (later Harvey House)
- 7. Laundry
- 8. Boiler House
- 9. Chimney Stack

Various further improvements occurred from 1943 including a new multi storey block to the south-east of the main hospital eastern wing (1963), a new nurse's home (1961) and training centre. In 1967 Rawson House was demolished to provide room for a car park.

Gardening and landscaping, seen in changing garden beds, trees, hedges and pathways were a part of the hospital from its commencement on the study site. The patterns of gardening seen in **Figures 8**, **9** and **10** demonstrate changes over time within the hospital layout. These changes also indicate how the landscaping and gardens reflected the continual growth of the hospital where over time there was less need for gardens, more for buildings, and post war, for car parking.

Site Plans 1956 and 1988 below (**Figure 10**) indicate the extent of post war change, demolition of older buildings and improvement.



Figure 10: Hospital Site Plans dating from 1956 (left) and 1988 (right) (Morris, 1988).

3.2 Impact of Development

An overlay of the 1956 plan of the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital with the footprint of the proposed new works (**Figure 11**) indicates that nearly all current buildings and sites of former structures will be impacted by the proposed new works. This includes on the eastern side of the hospital complex the former sites of:

- Isolation block and extensions;
- Temporary isolation block;
- Gissing House;
- Lewis House; and,
- Laboratories, stores and ancillary buildings.

20



Figure 11: Overlay of the 1956 Wagga Wagga Base Hospital (yellow) over proposed Phase 2/3 development plan (shown as the green area).

In particular, remediation and broad site preparation works such as grading, drainage and services, will impact upon a wide range of sites of former hospital structures.

3.3 Historical Archaeological Potential

The history of the site indicates that there is no potential for pre-hospital use historical archaeological resources to survive at the site. The site was unoccupied

prior to hospital construction and is unlikely to have been used for specific land uses other than intermittent grazing. There is no record of any pre-hospital building on the site.

The 2009 and 2011 reports identified some archaeological potential across the site based on the potential survival of earlier hospital remains of demolished structures, former paths and landscaping whose positions were indicated in an overlay of the 1956 hospital. Figure 13 highlights the particular sites of former structures on the site which may be affected by the current development proposal.

It was however noted (in 2009 and 2011) that successive phases of modification and construction at the site would have disturbed, truncated and/or destroyed most of the integrity of the potential archaeological resources and that the site is well documented. This indicates that while there is a high potential for retained historical archaeological resources related to hospital use, the archaeological resource has been disturbed and would be unlikely to contribute to a greater understanding of the hospital's growth, development and change over time.

The area of Rawson House, however, was identified as an area of some high potential and archaeological research significance. On this basis, in January 2012, archaeologists monitored machine clearance of the area of Rawson House and recorded remnant features associated with the former structure. This recording demonstrated the impact previous development of the site had had on subsurface features and deposits (see **Figure 12** and **Figure 13**). The archaeological recording showed that landscaping and later excavations had removed former surfaces, associated with early to mid-20th Century occupation.

Therefore on the basis of the evidence from the archaeological monitoring undertaken in 2012 the potential for survival of significant archaeological relics on the site of former structures at the Wagga Wagga hospital site is assessed as low to nil.



Figure 12: Remnant footings of Rawson House recorded in-situ.



Figure 13: Fragmentary footings and drainage lines from Rawson House recorded in January 2012.

24

3.4 Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

In regards to historical archaeological potential, the following conclusions will apply:

- Historical archaeological resources relating to previous hospital structures and features are unlikely to survive at the Wagga Wagga hospital site. There is no likelihood of historical archaeological features prior to hospital occupation;
- The historical archaeological resources across the study area have been significantly disturbed by successive phases of hospital modification, demolition, landscaping and building. This has compromised the integrity and archaeological research value of the resource and/or removed it entirely;
- The proposed new development (Phase 2/3) will therefore have no impact on any significant historical archaeological resource.

Recommendations

• No further formal historical archaeological investigation is required prior to development based on the results of this survey.

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APPENDIX 1: AHIMS SEARCH RESULTS



28

· It is located during an investigation of the area conducted for a development application.

If you considering undertaking a development activity in the area subject to the AHIMS search, DECC would recommend that an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment be undertaken. You should consult with the relevant consent authority to determine the necessary assessment to accompany your development application.

Yours Sincerely

Gordon, David Administrator Information Systems & Assessment Section Culture & Heritage Division Phone: 02 9585 6513 Fax: 02 9585 6094

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