

# **Hills Showground Station Precinct Concept Proposal**

## **Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Heritage Impact Statement**

Report prepared for Landcom

October 2019



**Sydney Office** Level 6, 372 Elizabeth Street Surry Hills NSW Australia 2010 T +61 2 9319 4811

**Canberra Office** 2A Mugga Way Red Hill ACT Australia 2603 T +61 2 6273 7540

**GML Heritage Pty Ltd** ABN 60 001 179 362

[www.gml.com.au](http://www.gml.com.au)

## Report Register



The following report register documents the development and issue of the report entitled Hills Showground Station Precinct Concept Proposal—Heritage Impact Statement undertaken by GML Heritage Pty Ltd in accordance with its quality management system.

Job No.	Issue No.	Notes/Description	Issue Date
19-0328	1	Draft Report	27 September 2019
19-0328	2	Draft Report	14 October 2019
19-0328	3	Final Report	25 October 2019

## Quality Assurance

GML Heritage Pty Ltd operates under a quality management system which has been certified as complying with the Australian/New Zealand Standard for quality management systems AS/NZS ISO 9001:2016.

The report has been reviewed and approved for issue in accordance with the GML quality assurance policy and procedures.

Project Manager:	Lisa Trueman	Project Director & Reviewer:	Claire Nunez
Issue No.	3	Issue No.	3
Signature		Signature	
Position:	Associate	Position:	Senior Associate
Date:	25 October 2019	Date:	25 October 2019

### Copyright

Historical sources and reference material used in the preparation of this report are acknowledged and referenced at the end of each section and/or in figure captions. Reasonable effort has been made to identify, contact, acknowledge and obtain permission to use material from the relevant copyright owners.

Unless otherwise specified or agreed, copyright in this report vests in GML Heritage Pty Ltd ('GML') and in the owners of any pre-existing historic source or reference material.

### Moral Rights

GML asserts its Moral Rights in this work, unless otherwise acknowledged, in accordance with the (Commonwealth) *Copyright (Moral Rights) Amendment Act 2000*. GML's moral rights include the attribution of authorship, the right not to have the work falsely attributed and the right to integrity of authorship.

### Right to Use

GML grants to the client for this project (and the client's successors in title) an irrevocable royalty-free right to reproduce or use the material from this report, except where such use infringes the copyright and/or Moral Rights of GML or third parties.

Contents	Page
<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>1.0 Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Project Background .....	1
1.2 Site Location.....	2
1.3 Subdivision Application.....	3
1.4 Proposed Development.....	3
1.5 Report Aims.....	5
1.5.1 <i>Archaeological Assessment Aims</i> .....	5
1.5.2 <i>Built Heritage Assessment Aims</i> .....	5
1.6 Methodology and Terminology .....	5
1.7 Limitations .....	5
1.8 Background Documentation .....	6
1.9 Author Identification .....	6
<b>2.0 Statutory Context .....</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW).....	7
2.2 Heritage Act 1977 (NSW).....	8
2.3 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW).....	9
2.4 The Hills Local Environmental Plan 2012 .....	9
2.5 The Hills Development Control Plan 2012 .....	13
2.6 Showground Precinct DCP .....	14
2.7 Endnotes .....	15
<b>3.0 Historical Background.....</b>	<b>16</b>
3.1 Castle Hill.....	16
3.1.1 <i>Aboriginal History</i> .....	16
3.1.2 <i>Early European History</i> .....	17
3.1.3 <i>Orchards and Farms to Cars and Suburbs</i> .....	18
3.1.4 <i>The Castle Hill Show and Showground</i> .....	19
3.2 The Site .....	19
3.2.1 <i>Early European and Agricultural History</i> .....	19
3.2.2 <i>The Council Takes Over</i> .....	20
3.2.3 <i>The Metro and Beyond</i> .....	20
3.3 Endnotes .....	27
<b>4.0 Site Analysis.....</b>	<b>30</b>
4.1 Visual Inspection of the Site .....	30
4.2 Description of the Site.....	30
4.2.1 <i>Site 1</i> .....	30
4.2.2 <i>Site 2</i> .....	30
4.2.3 <i>Site 3</i> .....	30
4.3 Site Images .....	31
4.3.1 <i>General Site images</i> .....	31
4.3.2 <i>Site 1: Hills Showground Precinct West</i> .....	33

4.3.3 Site 2: Doran Drive Precinct .....	35
4.3.4 Site 3: Hills Showground Precinct East .....	36
4.3.5 Images of the Surrounding Area .....	38
<b>5.0 Description of Proposal.....</b>	<b>39</b>
5.1 Introduction .....	39
5.2 Description of the Proposal .....	41
<b>6.0 Assessment of Aboriginal Archaeological Potential .....</b>	<b>43</b>
6.1 Introduction .....	43
6.2 Environmental Context .....	43
6.2.1 Geology and Topography .....	43
6.3 Archaeological Context.....	45
6.3.1 Aboriginal Heritage Information Management Sydney (AHIMS).....	45
6.3.2 Relevant Local Literature.....	48
6.4 Modern Land Use and Disturbance.....	52
6.5 Summary of Aboriginal Archaeological Potential.....	54
6.6 Statement of Aboriginal Archaeological Potential.....	55
6.7 Impact Assessment .....	55
6.8 Endnotes.....	55
<b>7.0 Historical Archaeological Potential and Significance .....</b>	<b>57</b>
7.1 Overview.....	57
7.2 Assessment of Historical Archaeological Potential .....	57
7.2.1 Archaeology of the Neighbourhood .....	57
7.2.2 Phases of Site Development.....	59
7.2.3 Site Formation Processes .....	61
7.2.4 Summary of Historical Archaeological Potential .....	63
7.3 Historical Archaeological Significance.....	64
7.3.1 NSW Heritage Criteria .....	64
7.3.2 Statement of Archaeological Significance .....	65
7.4 Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures .....	66
7.5 Endnotes.....	67
<b>8.0 Built Heritage Assessment .....</b>	<b>68</b>
8.1 Introduction .....	68
8.2 Existing Buildings on the Site .....	68
8.3 Heritage Context .....	68
8.3.1 Heritage Items in the Vicinity .....	68
8.4 Heritage Impact Assessment.....	69
8.4.1 Summary of Proposed Works .....	69
8.4.2 Assessment of Heritage Impacts .....	69
8.4.3 Statement of Potential Heritage Impact—Built Heritage .....	80
<b>9.0 Conclusions and Recommendations .....</b>	<b>81</b>
9.1 Conclusions .....	81
9.1.1 Findings of the Aboriginal Due Diligence Process.....	81
9.1.2 Historical Archaeology .....	81



9.1.3 Built Heritage.....	81
9.2 Recommendations.....	82
9.2.1 Aboriginal Archaeology.....	82
9.2.2 Historical Archaeology.....	82
9.2.3 Built Heritage.....	83
<b>10.0 Appendices .....</b>	<b>85</b>
Appendix A	
Hills Showground Station Precinct—Interpretation Strategy	



## Executive Summary

---

Landcom has engaged GML Heritage Pty Ltd (GML) to provide heritage advice and prepare an Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Heritage Impact Statement for the proposed redevelopment of the site at Hills Showground Station Precinct, Castle Hill. The proposal is for the Concept Approval of the State Significant Development Application SSD 9653.

The development lots subject of the Concept Master Plan consists of the land immediately surrounding the Showground Metro Station (Lot 53, DP1253217; Lot 55, DP1253217; Lot 56, DP1253217). The site is located within the Hills Showground Station Precinct, Castle Hill. The redevelopment of the Hills Showground Station Precinct was announced by the NSW Government in 2014. The precinct was one of a number of Priority Precincts along the North West Rail Link (now Sydney Metro North West). The Showground Station Precinct was rezoned in December 2017.

Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirement (SEARs) was received on 26 October 2018, and an amended SEARs was received on 9 October 2019. The SEARs included the requirements that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) address the following key heritage issues:

### 11. Heritage and Archaeology

- *a detailed heritage impact statement that identifies and addresses the extent of heritage impact of the proposal on the site, site curtilage and surrounding area, including any built and landscape items, conservation areas, views and settings, and in particular the impact of the proposal on heritage items of local and State significance and on items of Aboriginal culture heritage.*
- *consider any endorsed conservation management plans for heritage items and conservation areas in the vicinity of the site and the surrounding area; and*
- *include a heritage interpretation strategy*
- *where the heritage impact statement identifies potential historical archaeological impacts, a historical archaeological assessment is to be prepared by a qualified historical archaeologist in accordance with the relevant guidelines published by the Office of Environment and Heritage.*

### 12. Aboriginal Heritage

- *The EIS shall provide a detailed Aboriginal heritage impact statement (AHIS) that identifies and addresses the extent of Aboriginal heritage impacts of the proposal on the site and the surrounding area, including objects, places or features (including biological diversity) of cultural value within the landscape.*
- *If Aboriginal Cultural Heritage is found at the site, a full Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) together with document of required consultation must be provided in accordance with relevant legislation requirements and guidelines published by the Office of Environment and Heritage.*

This report has been prepared as a stand-alone document in response to these requirements. It evaluates the potential of the development lots to contain archaeological resources—both Aboriginal and historical—and identifies potential development impacts on those predicted resources. It further identifies the heritage significance of the site and heritage items in the vicinity of the development lots and assesses the potential impacts of the proposed development on those heritage items.

The key findings of the report are outlined below.

### **Aboriginal Due Diligence Process**

- The site inspection of the development lots did not encounter artefacts or other evidence of Aboriginal archaeological sites.
- The environmental context of the land surrounding the study area, predictive models established to ascertain the likelihood of Aboriginal archaeological sites, and levels of previous land disturbance indicate that it is unlikely that Aboriginal objects will be located within the site.
- The proposed development is unlikely to impact on Aboriginal archaeological objects.
- This assessment satisfies condition 12 of the SEARs and no further assessments are required.
- If during the process of future physical works, Aboriginal sites and/or objects are suspected and/or identified, an Aboriginal unexpected finds protocol should be enacted. This would be applied as a condition of consent at the Development Application Stage.

### **Historical Archaeology**

- The study area has been assessed as having nil–low potential for locally significant historical archaeological remains or ‘relics’, as defined by the Heritage Act, associated with the subdivision, houses, timber yard and factories.
- The proposed development is unlikely to impact significant historical archaeological remains and relics.
- If during the process of future physical works, historical archaeological remains are suspected and/or identified, an unexpected finds procedure should be enacted. This would be applied as a condition of consent at the Development Application Stage.

### **Built Heritage**

- The Hills Showground Station Precinct is located within the vicinity of a number of heritage items, including 128–132 Showground Road and 107 Showground Road. The Concept Proposal is not considered to have an adverse impact on the significance of those items in the vicinity, or their setting or curtilage.
- The Hills Showground Station Precinct is located directly adjacent to the Castle Hill Showground, which has been identified in previous studies as having cultural significance at a local level.
  - The proposal will not materially impact on the significant fabric, structures or elements of the Castle Hill Showground. The proposed development will, however, alter the scale of development surrounding the showground, impacting the setting and visual curtilage of the Showground.
  - However, the area has been rezoned to accommodate this scale of development. In addition, the proposed development will also generate better public access to and awareness of the site that will facilitate its ongoing use and conservation, having a positive impact.
  - The Hills Shire Council is currently undertaking a master planning process for the Showground to guide its future development.

- It is recommended that the future detailed design stages of the buildings ensure that they respond to the interface with the Showground site and provide an appropriate transition of scale, through built form articulation and streetscape interface, in order to mitigate the impact on its setting.

## **Interpretation**

An interpretation strategy is included in Appendix A of this report. The key themes of the Interpretation Plan are:

Theme 1:        Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and History.

Theme 2:        Resistance and Rebellion.

Theme 3:        Agriculture and Orchardring.

Theme 4:        Pride in the Hills.





# 1.0 Introduction

---

## 1.1 Project Background

Landcom has engaged GML Heritage Pty Ltd (GML) to provide heritage advice and prepare a Heritage Impact Statement for the proposed redevelopment of the Hills Showground Local Centre site (hereafter referred to as ‘the site’). The proposed development is for the Concept Approval of the State Significant Development Application SSD 9653.

The site is located at the Hills Showground Station Precinct, Castle Hill, and consists of the land immediately surrounding the Hills Showground Metro Station. The redevelopment of the Showground Station Precinct (the precinct) was announced by the NSW Government in 2014. The precinct was one of a number of Priority Precincts along the North West Rail Link (now Sydney Metro North West). The Showground Station Precinct was rezoned in December 2017.

Secretary’s Environmental Assessment Requirement (SEARs) for the proposed redevelopment was received on 26 October 2018. The SEARS included the requirements that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) address the following key heritage issues:

### *Heritage and Archaeology*

- *a detailed heritage impact statement that identifies and addresses the extent of heritage impact of the proposal on the site, site curtilage and surrounding area, including any built and landscape items, conservation areas, views and settings, and in particular the impact of the proposal on heritage items of local and State significance and on items of Aboriginal culture heritage.*
- *consider any endorsed conservation management plans for heritage items and conservation areas in the vicinity of the site and the surrounding area; and*
- *include a heritage interpretation strategy*
- *where the heritage impact statement identifies potential historical archaeological impacts, a historical archaeological assessment is to be prepared by a qualified historical archaeologist in accordance with the relevant guidelines published by the Office of Environment and Heritage.*

### *Aboriginal Heritage*

- *The EIS shall provide a detailed Aboriginal heritage impact statement (AHIS) that identifies and addresses the extent of Aboriginal heritage impacts of the proposal on the site and the surrounding area, including objects, places or features (including biological diversity) of cultural value within the landscape.*
- *If Aboriginal Cultural Heritage is found at the site, a full Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) together with document of required consultation must be provided in accordance with relevant legislation requirements and guidelines published by the Office of Environment and Heritage.*

This report has been prepared as a stand-alone document in response to these requirements. It evaluates the study area’s potential to contain archaeological resources—both Aboriginal and historical—and identifies potential development impacts on those predicted resources. It further identifies the heritage significance of the site and heritage items in the vicinity of the study area and assesses the potential impacts of the proposed development on those heritage items.

## 1.2 Site Location

The location and extent of the site are shown in Figure 1.1 and Figure 1.3.

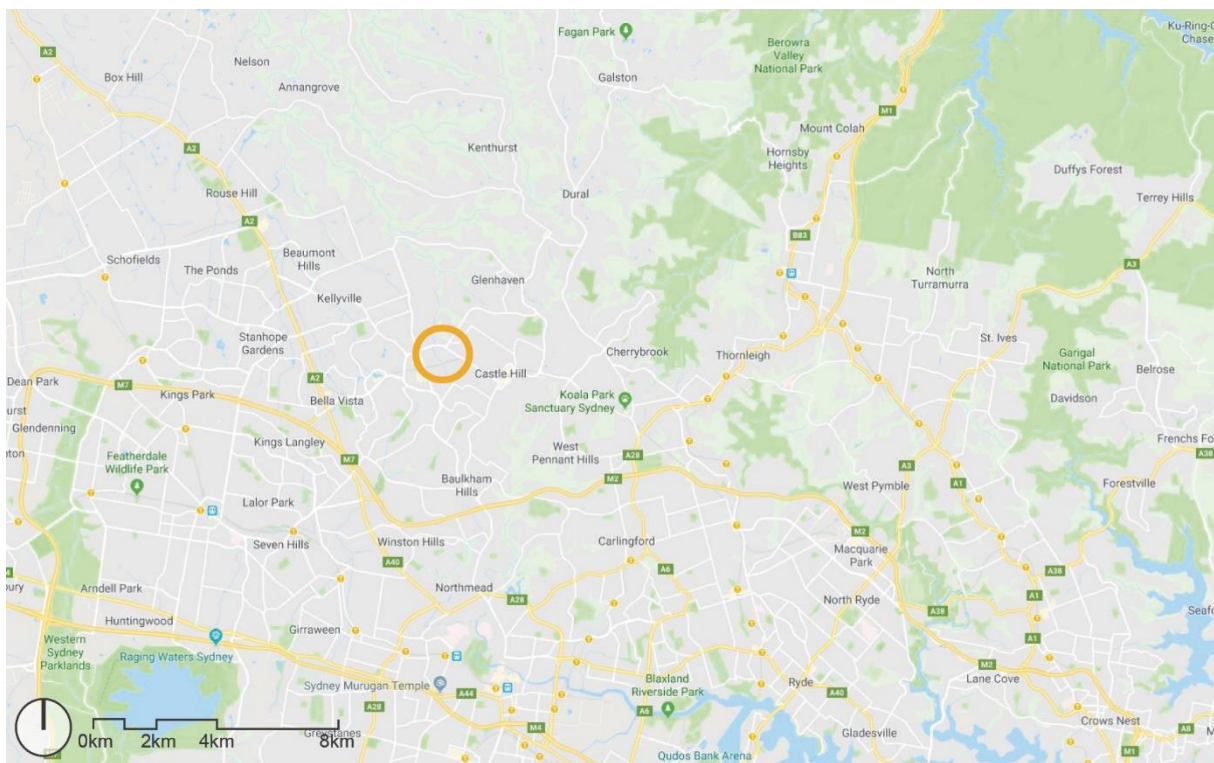
The area subject of the DA consists of the lots identified as Lot 53, DP1253217; Lot 55, DP1253217; and Lot 56, DP1253217 (formerly Lot 140 of Deposited Plan 1180973). The site has an area of approximately 8.4ha and is located in the suburb of Castle Hill, immediately adjacent to Showground Station. The site is bordered by a drainage basin and Cattai Creek to the north-west and west, with light industrial development further west, Carrington Road to the south, and Castle Hill Showground to the north and Showground Road to the east.

Surrounding development consists of a low-density residential development to the south and east, Castle Hill Showground and open space to the north, and industrial development to the west.

The site is located in the broader Showground Station Priority Precinct that was rezoned in late 2017. The land to the south of the site has been zoned as R4 (High Density Residential), the land to the east across Showground Road has been zoned R3 (Medium Density Residential), and the land to the west has been deferred with no zoning in place.

The site is zoned R1 (General Residential) and B2 (Local Centre) within *The Hills Local Environmental Plan 2012* (HLEP or Hills LEP), with a maximum height limit of 68m.

Further details of the current conditions of the site are discussed in Section 3.0 of this report.



**Figure 1.1** The site in its context. (Source: Google Maps with GML overlay)

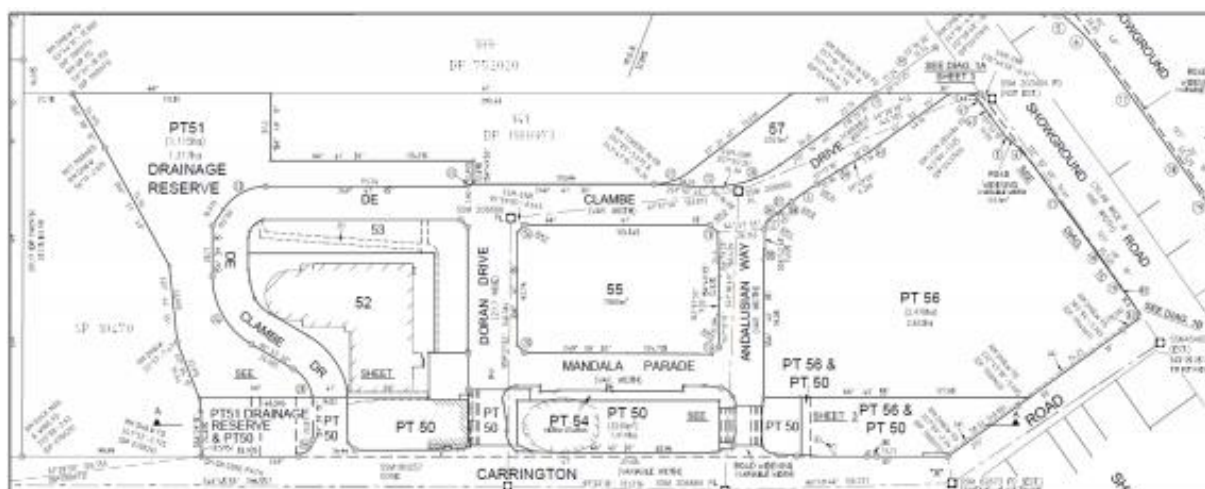
### 1.3 Subdivision Application

In August 2019, Sydney Metro submitted an application to subdivide Lot 140 DP 1180973 to create a number of lots in Depositional Plan 1253217. The subdivision plan (Figure 1.2) was registered on 29 August 2019. Table 1.1 identifies the new Lots.

**Table 1.1** Hills Showground Station lots.

Existing use	Legal description	Address
Sydney Metro commuter carpark and plaza (PAZ)	Lot 52 1253217	3 De Clambe Drive, Castle Hill
Developable land – Hills Showground Precinct West	Lot 53 DP 1253217	5 De Clambe Drive, Castle Hill
Developable land – Doran Drive Precinct	Lot 55 DP 1253217	2 Mandala Parade Castle Hill
Developable land – Hills Showground Precinct East	Lot 56 DP 1253217	3 Andalusian Way, Castle Hill
Hills Showground Station Box and service facility boxes	Lot 54 & Lot 50 1253217	1 Mandala Parade, Castle Hill
Mandala Parade, De Clambe Drive, Doran Drive, Andalusian Way	N/A	N/A

The Concept Proposal applies to Lots 53, 55 and 56, also known as the Development Lots.



**Figure 1.2** Draft subdivision plan as submitted to the NSW Land Registry Services. (Source: RPS 2019)

### 1.4 Proposed Development

Landcom is seeking approval of the Concept Proposal for a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) comprising up to 1,900 dwellings at the Hills Showground Station Precinct, Castle Hill. The development is to be split into three development lots listed below as identified in Figure 1.3:

- Hills Showground Precinct West;
- Doran Drive Precinct; and

- Hills Showground Precinct East.

The proposed development meets the criteria for State Significant Development under the State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011 (SEPP), pursuant to Schedule 1, paragraph 19(2).

The Concept Proposal comprises residential, retail and commercial uses and building envelopes of varying heights up to twenty storeys. The proposal also includes car parking, roads, landscaping, services and the provision of publicly accessible open space in the form of Doran Drive Plaza and a new park.

The DA will specifically seek approval for a Concept Proposal comprising:

- A maximum gross floor area (GFA) of 175,796m<sup>2</sup> for residential development equating to up to approximately 1,900 dwellings including affordable housing
- A maximum GFA of 13,600m<sup>2</sup> for non-residential development (commercial, retail and community uses)
- Building envelopes, and allocation of GFA to the three precincts
- Landscape concept for the public domain detailing the extent of public domain including streets, pedestrian pathways, provision of Doran Drive Plaza approximately 1,405m<sup>2</sup> and a new Park approximately 3000m<sup>2</sup>
- Vehicle and bicycle parking rates
- Strategies for utilities and services provision, managing stormwater and drainage, achievement of ecologically sustainable development (ESD) and design excellence
- Staging plan addressing the timing of future subdivision, construction, release and development of land
- Concept principal subdivision of (a development lot/s) into future major lots, public domain areas and roads.

The proposed development is discussed in further detail in Section 4.0 of this report.



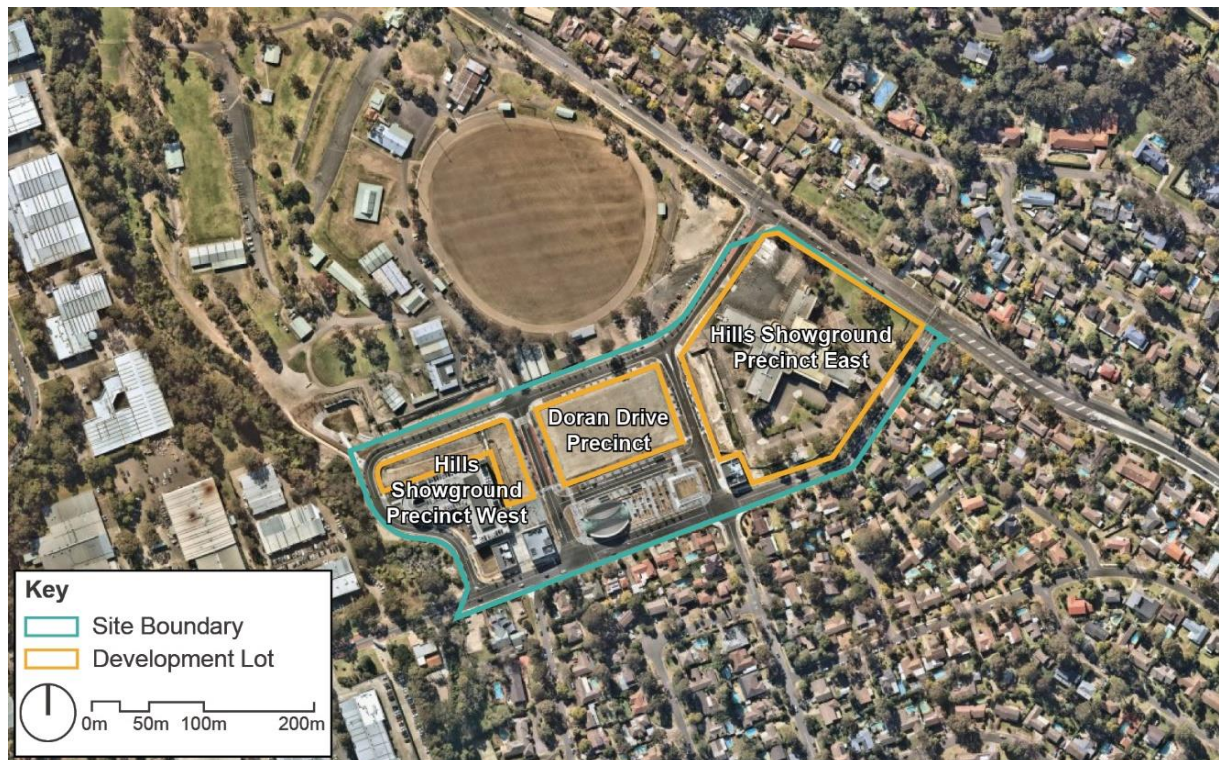


Figure 1.3 Subject site with the three development sites identified. (Source: Nearmap with GML overlay)

## 1.5 Report Aims

### 1.5.1 Archaeological Assessment Aims

The aims of the archaeological assessment component of this report are to:

- investigate readily available historical research to understand the site's development history;
- identify whether the study area has Aboriginal and/or historical archaeological potential;
- identify potential development impacts on the site's identified archaeological resource;
- identify appropriate mitigation measures for the management of the development impacts; and
- prepare a stand-alone report suitable for submission to relevant statutory authorities.

### 1.5.2 Built Heritage Assessment Aims

The aims of the built heritage assessment component of this report are to:

- identify the heritage significance of the site and any heritage items in its vicinity;
- identify any heritage impacts of proposed development on the listed items;
- provide a brief outline of the provisions in *The Hills Development Control Plan 2012* which relate to development in the vicinity of heritage items; and
- identify any appropriate mitigation measures for any identified impacts on heritage items.

## 1.6 Methodology and Terminology

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following documents:

- *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW] 2010) (Due Diligence Code of Practice);
- *NSW Heritage Manual—‘Archaeological Assessments’* (NSW Heritage Office 1996);
- *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and Relics* (NSW Heritage Branch 2009); and
- *The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013* (the Burra Charter).

## 1.7 Limitations

This report provides an assessment of Aboriginal and historical archaeological and built heritage resources within the site.

This report provides overarching management recommendations regarding archaeological potential and other heritage values associated with the site. The management recommendations respond to statutory requirements under the *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW) (Heritage Act) and the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW) (NPW Act), as well as best practice approaches to managing heritage values, including intangible values. This report does not replace the need to prepare any development specific heritage reports that may be required as part of the future development program.

As this report was prepared in accordance with the Due Diligence Code of Practice, it does not include a formal systematic archaeological survey or an assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance. This report does not include consultation with the Aboriginal community, as it is not required by the due diligence process.

## 1.8 Background Documentation

Key background documentation consulted during the preparation of this report included:

- EMM, *Sydney Metro Northwest Showground Station – Archaeological test excavation report 1890s house site*, report prepared for Transport for NSW, February 2016;
- Envisage, *Northwest Rail Link Visual Impact Strategy for Heritage Properties*, prepared for North West Rapid Transit Infrastructure Joint Venture, November 2015;
- Kelleher Nightingale Consulting, *Sydney Metro Northwest Archaeological Salvage Program*, prepared for Transport for NSW, November 2015;
- GML Heritage, *Showground Station Precinct—Aboriginal Heritage Assessment*, prepared for the Department of Planning and Environment, 2015;
- GML Heritage, *Showground Station Precinct—Non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment*, prepared for the Department of Planning and Environment, 2015;



- Graham Edds and Associates, *Shire Wide Heritage Study*, prepared for the Hills Shire Council, 1996; Heritage Council Guideline on Heritage Curtilages 1996
- Artefact Heritage Services, *Sydney Metro Northwest Heritage Interpretation Plan*, prepared for Northwest Rapid Transit, 2018;
- Heritage Council Guideline on Heritage Curtilages—Heritage Council Guideline, NSW Heritage Office, 1996; and
- Design in Context—Guidelines for Infill Development in the Historic Environment, NSW Heritage Office, 2005.

## 1.9 Author Identification

This report has been prepared by the following GML consultants: Lisa Trueman (Associate), Jodi Cameron (Senior Heritage Consultant), Hannah Morris, Lara Tooby and Annabelle Wijaya (Heritage Consultants), Patrick Atkinson (Graduate Heritage Consultant) and Samuel Kelly (Student Planner). Claire Nunez (Senior Associate) has provided strategic input and review.

## 2.0 Statutory Context

---

This section discusses the state and local statutory planning context as it relates to heritage and potential archaeological resources (both Aboriginal and historical) of the site. In NSW, items of heritage significance and archaeological remains (referred to as ‘objects’ or ‘relics’) are afforded statutory protection under the following Acts:

- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW) (NPW Act);
- *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW) (Heritage Act); and
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) (EPA Act).

### 2.1 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)

The NPW Act provides statutory protection for all Aboriginal ‘objects’ (consisting of any material evidence of the Indigenous occupation of New South Wales) under Section 90 of the NPW Act, and for ‘Aboriginal places’ (areas of cultural significance to the Aboriginal community) under Section 84 of the NPW Act. Aboriginal objects and places are afforded automatic statutory protection in New South Wales whereby it is an offence (without the Minister for Environment’s consent) to harm an Aboriginal object or declared Aboriginal Place.

The NPW Act defines an Aboriginal object as:

*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.*

The protection provided to Aboriginal objects and places applies irrespective of the level of their significance or issues of land tenure. Sites of traditional significance that do not necessarily contain material remains may be gazetted as ‘Aboriginal Places’ and thereby be protected under the NPW Act. However, areas are only gazetted if the Minister is satisfied that sufficient evidence exists to demonstrate that the location was and/or is of special significance to Aboriginal culture.

A strict liability offence applies for harm to or desecration of an Aboriginal object or declared Aboriginal Place.<sup>1</sup> The definition of ‘harm’ includes destroying, defacing, damaging or moving an Aboriginal object or declared Aboriginal Place. The strict liability offence of harming Aboriginal objects has a number of defences. The two defences relevant to the proposed development are the statutory defence of due diligence through complying with an adopted industry code, or compliance with the conditions of an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP), noting that this is not required for SSD under Section 4.41 (1) (d) of the EP&A Act 1979.

#### Due Diligence Approach

The DECCW issued a code of practice guideline that defines a due diligence approach to Aboriginal heritage: *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (13 September 2010). This guideline is designed to assist individuals and organisations to exercise due diligence when carrying out activities that may harm Aboriginal objects, and/or Aboriginal Places, and to determine whether they should apply for consent in the form of an AHIP.

The Due Diligence Code of Practice sets out the reasonable and practicable steps which individuals and organisations need to take in order to:

- identify whether or not Aboriginal objects are, or are likely to be, present in an area;
- determine whether or not their activities are likely to harm Aboriginal objects (if present); and
- determine whether an AHIP application is required.

Due diligence is defined thus:

*Due diligence is a legal concept describing a standard of care. Exercising due diligence means turning your mind to the likely risks of your proposed course of action. It is not enough to perform activities carefully. Due diligence requires consideration of your obligations under, in this case, the NPW Act, and the consideration and adoption of a course of action that is directed towards preventing a breach of the Act.*

*In the context of protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage, due diligence involves taking reasonable and practicable measures to determine whether your actions will harm an Aboriginal object and if so avoiding that harm.<sup>2</sup>*

The steps that are required to follow the due diligence process are:

- searching the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS);
- identifying any landscape features which may indicate the presence of Aboriginal objects;
- devising strategies to avoid harming Aboriginal objects;
- conducting desktop assessment and visual inspection to confirm the potential presence of Aboriginal objects; and
- producing an impact assessment.<sup>3</sup>

In preparing this report, GML complied with the guidelines set out in the Due Diligence Code of Practice. The extent of land covered by the due diligence process is described as the study area.

## 2.2 Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)

The Heritage Act is a statutory tool designed to conserve New South Wales' environmental heritage. It is used to regulate the impacts of development on the state's heritage assets. The Heritage Act defines a heritage item as 'a place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct'. To assist in management of the state's heritage assets, the Heritage Act distinguishes between items of local and state heritage significance.

- 'Local heritage significance', in relation to a place, building, work, relic, movable object or precinct, means significance to an area in relation to the historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic value of the item.
- 'State heritage significance', in relation to a place, building, work, relic, movable object or precinct, means significance to the state in relation to the historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic value of the item. There are no items listed on the State Heritage Register located within, adjacent to or in the vicinity of the subject site.

Specifically for archaeology, the Act defines a 'relic' as any deposit, object or material evidence that:

- *relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement; and*
- *is of State or Local heritage significance.*

Archaeological features and deposits are afforded statutory protection by the 'relics' provision of the Heritage Act (as amended in 1999).

Section 139(1) of the Heritage Act states that:

*A person must not disturb or excavate any land knowing or having reasonable cause to suspect that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed unless the disturbance or excavation is carried out in accordance with an excavation permit.*

Excavation permits may be issued under Section 141 of the Heritage Act by the Heritage Council of NSW (or by the Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage [OEH], Department of Premier and Cabinet, under delegation), noting however under s4.41 (1) (c) of the EP&A Act which states that "an approval under Part 4, or an excavation permit under section 139, of the Heritage Act 1977."

This report considers whether the study area has the potential to contain significant archaeological remains as well as those that would be considered 'relics' under the Heritage Act.

## **2.3 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)**

The EP&A Act is administered by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and provides for environmental planning instruments to be made to guide the process of development and land use. The EP&A Act also provides for the protection of local heritage items and conservation areas through listing of Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) and State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs), which provide local councils with the framework required to make planning decisions.

## **2.4 The Hills Local Environmental Plan 2012**

### **LEP Heritage Controls**

The Hills LEP 2012 contains the following provisions relevant to the heritage items in Part 5 Clause 10—Heritage Conservation. The relevant objectives 5.10 (1) are listed as:

- *To conserve the environmental heritage of The Hills,*
- *To conserve the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas, including associated fabric, settings and views,*
- *To conserve archaeological sites,*
- *To conserve Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places of heritage significance.*

Clause 5.10(2) establishes the requirements for development consent as it applies to heritage items:

*Development consent is required for any of the following:*

- *Demolishing or moving any of the following or altering the exterior of any of the following (including, in the case of a building, making changes to its detail, fabric, finish or appearance):*
  - (i) *A heritage item,*
  - (ii) *An Aboriginal object,*
  - (iii) *A building, work, relic or tree within a heritage conservation area.*

- *altering a heritage item that is a building by making structural changes to its interior or by making changes to anything inside the item that is specified in Schedule 5 in relation to the item,*
- *disturbing or excavating an archaeological site while knowing, or having reasonable cause to suspect, that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed,*
- *disturbing or excavating an Aboriginal place of heritage significance,*
- *erecting a building on land:*
  - (i) on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or*
  - (ii) on which an Aboriginal object is located or that is within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance,*
- *subdividing land:*
  - (i) on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or*
  - (ii) on which an Aboriginal object is located or that is within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance.*

Clause 5.10(7) addresses the requirements for archaeological sites:

*The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause to the carrying out of development on an archaeological site (other than land listed on the State Heritage Register or to which an interim heritage order under the Heritage Act 1977 applies):*

- *notify the Heritage Council of its intention to grant consent, and*
- *take into consideration any response received from the Heritage Council within 28 days after the notice is sent.*

Clause 5.10(8) establishes guidelines in relation to places of Aboriginal significance:

*The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause to the carrying out of development in an Aboriginal place of heritage significance:*

- *consider the effect of the proposed development on the heritage significance of the place and any Aboriginal object known or reasonably likely to be located at the place by means of an adequate investigation and assessment (which may involve consideration of a heritage impact statement), and*
- *notify the local Aboriginal communities in writing or in such other manner as may be appropriate, about the application and take into consideration any response received within 28 days after the notice is sent.*

The site does not contain any heritage items listed within Schedule 5 of the Hills LEP (Figure 2.1). However, it is located within the vicinity of several heritage items listed on the Hills LEP, being:

- Item Number 52, Local Significance—Castle Hill Cemetery—10 Gilbert Road;
- Item Number 67, Local Significance—‘Dogwoods’—74 Showground Road;
- Item Number 68, Local Significance—House—107 Showground Road; and
- Item Number 69, Local Significance—House—128–132 Showground Road.

In addition, the Castle Hill Showground, which is directly adjacent to the study area, has been identified in the North West Rail Link Environmental Impact Statement (NWRL EIS) 1 European Heritage Report (2012) as having heritage significance at a local level. Its heritage values were also identified by Mayne-Wilson & Associates in a Draft Heritage and Cultural Landscape Study of Castle Hill Showground,

prepared for Baulkham Hills Shire Council in April 1996. Although not currently listed in any statutory instrument, for the purpose of this assessment the Showground is considered to be a potential heritage item and the impact of the proposal on the Showground forms part of the assessment.

The locations of these heritage items are shown on Figure 2.1.



**Figure 2.1** The Hills Shire heritage items in the vicinity of the site. (Source: HLEP 2012 with GML additions, 2019)

## LEP Planning Controls

As a result of the precinct rezoning undertaken by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment in 2017, the site now has a number of different planning controls that apply to each individual site, as indicated in Figures 2.2 to 2.4 and Table 2.1 below.

**Table 2.1** The Floor Space Ratio (FSR), Height of Building and Zoning permissible at each site.

	FSR	Height of Building	Zoning
Hills Showground Precinct West	Z1 – 5.0	AA – 68m	B2 – Local Centre
Doran Drive Precinct	X – 4.0	AA – 68m	B2 – Local Centre
Hills Showground Precinct East	V1 – 3.0	Y2 – 52m	R1 – General Residential

The site's permissible height and FSR are the highest in the wider Showground Precinct and have been designed to encourage transit oriented development that allows for taller, more dense buildings located adjacent to public transport. The site allows for mixed use development in the Hills Showground Precinct West and Doran Drive Precinct, with buildings up to 20 storeys and residential development, and Hills Showground Precinct East with buildings up to 16 storeys. The surrounding residential area has been



zoned to allow high density residential at lower heights, creating a transition that steps down from the site (see Figure 2.3).

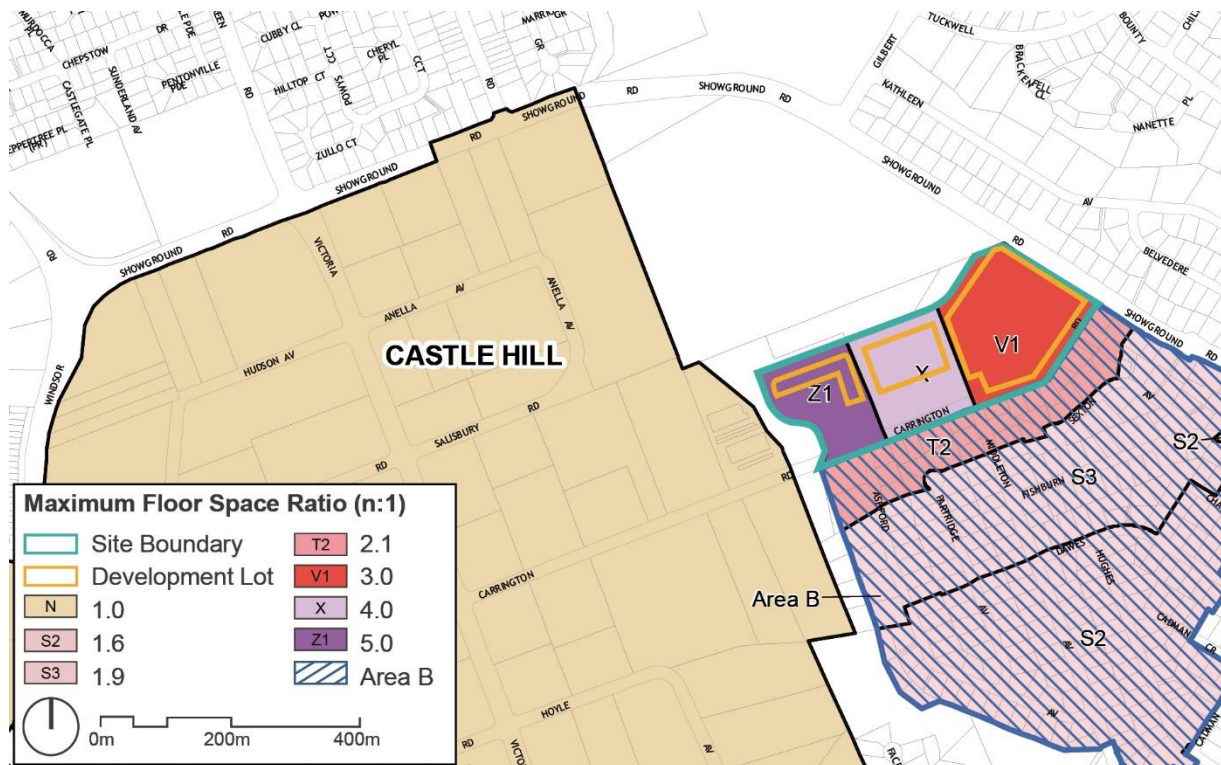


Figure 2.2 FSR map of the site and surrounding area. (Source: HLEP 2012 with GML additions, 2019)

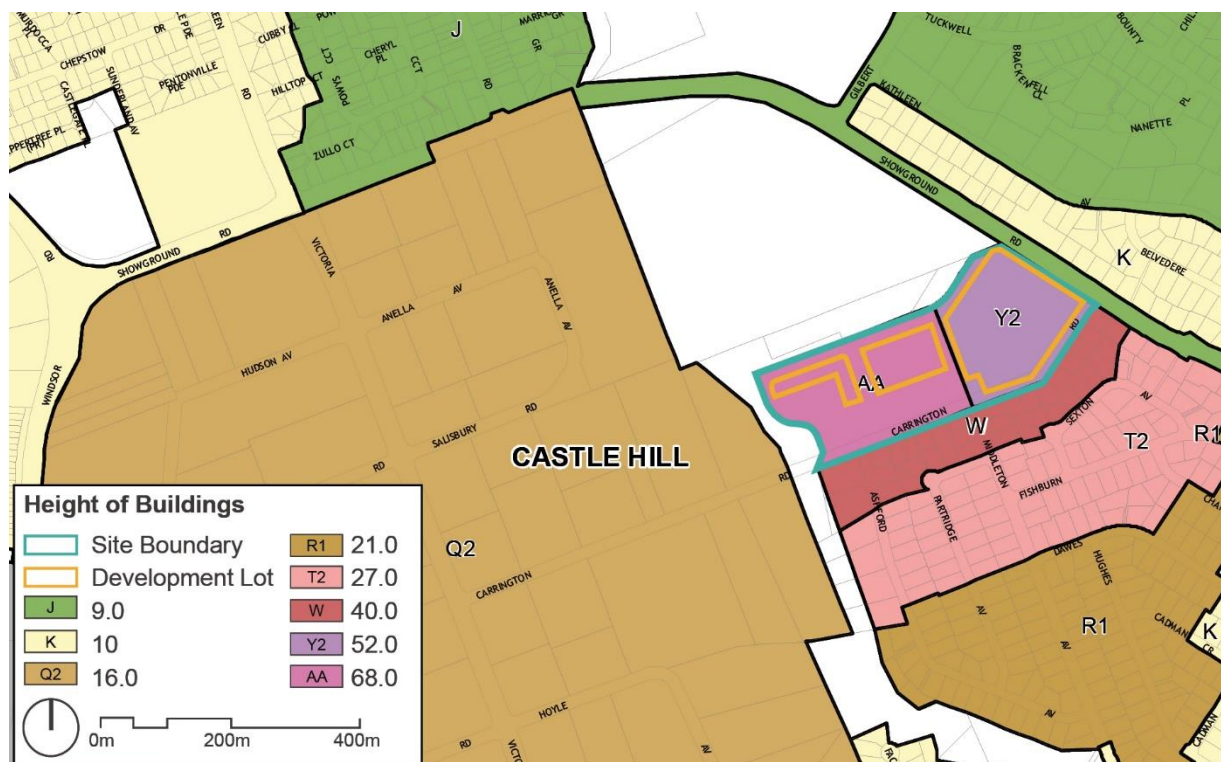


Figure 2.3 Height of building map of the site and surrounding area. (Source: HLEP 2012 with GML additions, 2019)

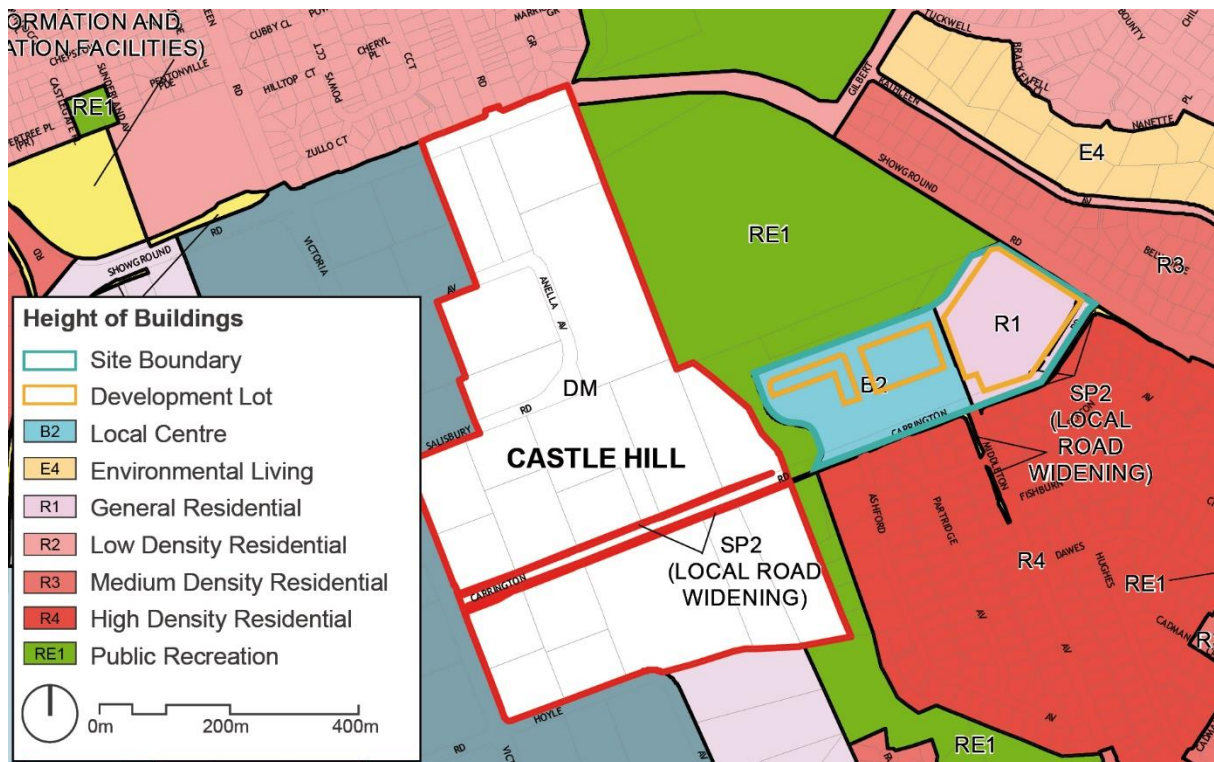


Figure 2.4 Land zoning map of the site and surrounding area. (Source: HLEP 2012 with GML additions, 2019)

## 2.5 The Hills Development Control Plan 2012

In addition to the provisions of the Hills LEP 2012, *The Hills Development Control Plan* (HDCP 2012) contains several provisions relevant to the development of the site that apply to development on and in the vicinity of heritage items or conservation areas as identified within the Hills LEP 2012.

The relevant provisions of Part C, Section 4 are listed below:

### 3.5. Development in the Vicinity of a Heritage Site

#### Objective

(i) To ensure that the development of land in the vicinity of a heritage site is undertaken in a manner that complement the heritage significance of the site.

#### Development Controls

(a) Development on land within the vicinity of a heritage site is not to detract from the identified significance of the place, its setting, nor obstruct important views to and from the site.

(b) New structures proposed on land adjoining a heritage building should be of similar scale and proportions to the heritage building.

(c) Where development is proposed within the vicinity of a heritage site, the following matters must be taken into consideration: -

- the character, siting, bulk, height and external appearance of the development;
- the visual relationship between the proposed development and the heritage site;
- the potential for overshadowing of the heritage site;

- *the colours and textures of materials proposed to be used in the development;*
- *the landscaping and fencing of the proposed development;*
- *the location of car parking spaces and access ways into the development;*
- *the impact of any proposed advertising signs or structures;*
- *the maintenance of the existing streetscape, where the particular streetscape has particular significance to the heritage site;*
- *the impact the proposed use would have on the amenity of the heritage site; and*
- *the effect the construction phase will have on the well-being of a heritage building.*

## 2.6 Showground Precinct DCP

A site specific DCP applies to the Showground Precinct which is designed to guide development in the precinct. Section D, Part 19 of the Hills DCP 2012 contains objectives and controls in addition to those mentioned above.

The relevant heritage objectives and controls in Part 4.12 of the site specific DCP are listed below:

### **Objectives**

- a. *Development is designed and located to protect Aboriginal sites and archaeological relics by minimising the likelihood of disturbance.*
- b. *Development is appropriately designed with regard to sensitive and direct interfaces with heritage sites.*
- c. *Development is sited to minimise adverse impacts on the significance of the heritage items.*

### **Controls – Aboriginal Heritage**

1. *An Aboriginal Due Diligence Report is required for each major development site/subdivision and must be prepared in accordance with the Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW.*
2. *Where a Due Diligence Report identifies the presence or likely presence of any Aboriginal sites or relics on or near the subject development site, further Aboriginal Cultural / Archaeological Assessment by a suitably qualified person must be undertaken. Where a site is identified as significant, a letter from the relevant Aboriginal Lands Council is required to be submitted expressing support or recommendations for the subdivision proposal.*
3. *The report prepared by GML Heritage titled “NWRL Showground Station Precinct, Indigenous Heritage Assessment” dated August 2015 is to guide any future site-specific Aboriginal heritage assessments and management of Aboriginal heritage sites, values, objects and/or places within the boundaries of the Showground Precinct.*

### **Controls – European Heritage – Cottage at 128-132 Showground Road, Castle Hill**

4. *Development at, or within the vicinity of the heritage cottage at 128-132 Showground Road must have regard to Part C Section 4 – Heritage of DCP 2012.*
5. *The curtilage of the heritage item is to be established through a heritage impact assessment prepared by a suitably qualified heritage consultant.*
6. *The curtilage of the heritage item is to be maintained and protected.*

7. *Development on sites adjoining and adjacent to the heritage item should consider locating landscaped areas and common open space areas between future building elements and the heritage site to assist in providing greater separation between the heritage item and future development.*
8. *Development within the vicinity of the heritage item shall ensure that significant view lines to and from the heritage item are appropriately maintained.*
9. *Development on sites adjoining the eastern and western boundaries of the heritage item should be appropriately sited to ensure that the heritage building is not affected by overshadowing.*

**Controls – European Heritage – Federation House at 107 Showground Road, Castle Hill**

10. *Development at, or within the vicinity of the heritage cottage at 107 Showground Road must have regard to Part C Section 4 – Heritage of this DCP.*
11. *The curtilage of the heritage item is to be established through a heritage impact assessment prepared by a suitably qualified heritage consultant.*
12. *The curtilage of the heritage item is to be maintained and protected.*
13. *Development on sites which interface the eastern, western and southern boundaries of the heritage item shall be designed to have a maximum height of four (4) storeys or no more than 13 metres in height, whichever is the lesser.*
14. *Development on sites adjoining and adjacent to the heritage item should consider locating landscaped areas and common open space areas between future building elements and the heritage site to assist in providing greater separation between the heritage item and future development.*
15. *Development within the vicinity of the heritage item shall ensure that significant view lines and from the heritage item are appropriately maintained.*
16. *Development on sites adjoining the eastern, western and southern boundaries of the heritage item should be appropriately sited to ensure that the building is not affected by overshadowing.*

## **2.7 Endnotes**

- <sup>1</sup> Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW), *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, 'Fact sheet 1', September 2010.
- <sup>2</sup> DECCW, *Due diligence guidelines for protection of Aboriginal objects in NSW*, 24 April 2009.
- <sup>3</sup> DECCW, *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, 'Fact sheet 2', September 2010.

## 3.0 Historical Background

---

### 3.1 Castle Hill

#### 3.1.1 Aboriginal History

Castle Hill is on Blaxlands Ridge on the northern periphery of the Cumberland Plain. Aboriginal people have lived in the Cumberland Plain region for at least 40,000 years.<sup>1</sup> Evidence of Aboriginals living around Castle Hill dates back to at least 5,000 years ago, based on knapped artefacts found in Rouse Hill, but almost certainly dates back much further based upon the earlier occupation of the nearby Cumberland Plain.<sup>2</sup>

The area was part of an extensive forest typically made up of ironbark gums which covered the plains and surrounding hills.<sup>3</sup> These woods formed a hinterland in the hills where Aboriginal groups known as the 'woods tribes' lived, whose names were recorded as the Bediagal, Tugagal and Booroobirronggal.<sup>4</sup> Not much is known about the Tugagal and Booroobirronggal, as records generally focus on the Bediagal as the main Aboriginal group of the area. Further afield were the Buruberongal, a group who lived by the Hawkesbury River.<sup>5</sup>

The lives of these groups were differentiated from other Aboriginal groups in the Sydney region owing to their occupation of the hilly forests of northwest Sydney. Sustenance was centred on small animals, insects and edible roots that could be found in the woods, as opposed to fish and molluscs—though fish such as mullet were caught in the creeks.<sup>6</sup> Weapons and tools were made from stalks of grass trees, timber, or tree roots tipped with stone and bone as opposed to shells. Colonial accounts note that there were differences in culture, reflected in the 'woods tribes' unique songs, dances and dialect.<sup>7</sup>

In other respects, these Aboriginal groups lived in a similar manner to other Aboriginal people in the Sydney region. Like groups on the Cumberland Plain, they would have used fire-stick farming to encourage new plant growth and attract wallabies and kangaroos.<sup>8</sup> Their campsites were also located near water, being more frequently used nearby large bodies of water than small creeks, which show less intensive use.<sup>9</sup> They would have been bound to other groups through familial or cultural ties, often through the women, who married outside of the groups.<sup>10</sup> Movement through Country and elsewhere would have been more fluid than defined group areas tend to suggest, as Aboriginal people would travel to meet familial and cultural obligations.<sup>11</sup>

Following the arrival of British colonists, the Aboriginal groups of the Castle Hill region experienced severe dislocation and disruption. Disease was the foremost cause of this disruption. It was said by other Aboriginal people that most of the Bediagal had died of smallpox in 1790.<sup>12</sup> The accuracy of this can't be verified, but it indicates that disease had a huge impact on Aboriginal people in the years following the colonists' arrival. Land seizures would have compounded this disruption. These were initially around the Parramatta region and further north around the Hawkesbury River, beyond the area associated with the Bediagal and other groups. They later extended into this region with the creation of the Castle Hill government farm in 1801.<sup>13</sup>

Dislocation and disruption by disease and British occupation did not mean capitulation. From 1790 to 1802, the area was the launching ground for acts of Aboriginal resistance against colonists. Pemulwuy, a Bediagal man, was at the centre of these acts. He speared John McEntire, Governor Phillip's gamekeeper, in late 1790 in response to McEntire trespassing on Bediagal land and shooting Aboriginal people.<sup>14</sup> From 1792 onwards, Pemulwuy began leading raids on colonists in Prospect, Parramatta and



the Hawkesbury River. The raids targeted colonial food supplies and farms as retribution for acts of colonial violence, like the kidnapping of Aboriginal children.<sup>15</sup>

Pemulwuy would have operated from the woodlands that would have covered Castle Hill and the surrounding area. The colonist David Collins associated him with a seldom-seen woodland Aboriginal group, probably the Bediagal, who led raids on farms in 1793.<sup>16</sup> After leading successful raids for nearly a decade Pemulwuy was killed in 1802, his head being decapitated and sent to England.<sup>17</sup> Resistance acts continued after his death, like Branch Jack's raid in the Hawkesbury in 1804/1805, but they became increasingly sporadic and confined to the colonial peripheries.<sup>18</sup> By the 1820s resistance acts were infrequent and more readily resembled acts of individual violence rather than an organised struggle, such as Devil Devil nearly decapitating Jeremiah Buffy in 1825.<sup>19</sup>

Pemulwuy's resistance reflects a larger trend of frontier conflict between British colonists and Aboriginal groups. This conflict often resulted in the dislocation and death of Aboriginal people, especially following edicts which allowed colonists to freely shoot Aboriginal people.<sup>20</sup> Despite the threat of violence, Aboriginal people also often stayed where they were. From 1814, the Colonial Government adopted policies of assimilation and control in response. The same year the Parramatta Native Institution was established to 'civilise' Aboriginal children in Western Sydney, removing them from their family for a western education.<sup>21</sup> The institution later moved to Blacktown, but resistance by Aboriginal people in the area resulted in its folding in 1825.<sup>22</sup> Its failure shows how Aboriginal people continued to counter colonial coercion through non-violent means after violent resistance stopped. Having forced the colonial government to shift its priorities through the simple act of continuing to exist on Country, Aboriginal people also forced the failure of these new policies.

Increasingly Aboriginal people began to operate within the colonial paradigm. Those who stayed in the area formed economic relationships with colonists out of necessity, becoming domestic servants, labourers or guides.<sup>23</sup> Attempts by the Colonial Government to push for policies of assimilation and control ultimately failed, but survival required adaptation. Aboriginal people continued to live through the region, in a manner described by Paul Irish as being 'hidden in plain view'.<sup>24</sup> The strong Aboriginal community in the west of Sydney and up through to the Hawkesbury is a legacy of this adaptation to colonial society. Castle Hill is now represented by one of the strongest Aboriginal communities in Sydney, the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council, who have maintained their cultural knowledge and connections to Country, continuing to live and work in the region while celebrating these connections.

### **3.1.2 Early European History**

Exploration of the Castle Hill area up to the Hawkesbury occurred soon after the arrival of Europeans. A group of nine colonists, including Governor Phillip, trekked from Manly through to a ridge line directly north of Castle Hill in April of 1788. From here they were able to see the Cumberland Plain, the area which became the focus of their settlement. Also noted were the flats around the Hawkesbury River in the north, which were recognised for their farming potential.<sup>25</sup>

Owing to policies surrounding the supervision of convicts, the Hawkesbury River was not settled for farming until 1794 when Lieutenant-Governor Grose allowed farms to be created at Pitt Town Bottoms. The area of Castle Hill was not touched at this early time. It remained densely wooded and ignored by Europeans, though Old Windsor Road was built in 1794 to link the new farms up near the Hawkesbury with the rest of the colony, which ran to the west of Castle Hill. Apart from the road, the area was not granted or settled by Europeans in the 1790s.<sup>26</sup>



It was only in 1802 that the colony expanded into Castle Hill, when Governor King declared a government farm nearly 35,000 acres in size would be created in the area. Three hundred convicts were employed to clear the heavily wooded land, and by 1804 they had cleared around 700 acres for farming. For the next six years the farm used convict labour to produce wheat, barley, oats and maize for the colony.<sup>27</sup>

In 1804 the farm was the centre of a convict rebellion. Many of the convict labourers were exiled Irish rebels who sensed weakness in the colony. Led by Philip Cunningham, the Irish convicts went into rebellion, burning houses and seizing arms from the farm's garrison in the hope of forcing their way back to Ireland.<sup>28</sup> Around 250 convict rebels made their way to a hill in Rouse Hill, where they were confronted by government forces. Despite negotiations, the government forces opened fire on the group when they refused to surrender. The resulting battle caused the rebels to scatter, resulting in their defeat and capture. Thirty were exiled and nine were executed as a result.<sup>29</sup>

After the rebellion the farm return to normal operation. By 1810 its logic was questioned by Governor Macquarie, who had the farm closed and converted to a mental asylum. This was followed by a shift in government priorities regarding its land holdings, resulting in most of the government farm being given away in 71 grants from 1818 to 1819. A township reserve was declared on 200 acres around the Asylum in this process, covering the land which would later become the Showground.<sup>30</sup>

### 3.1.3 Orchards and Farms to Cars and Suburbs

After the grants of 1818–1819, the land was cleared and turned into farmland. Some fledging industry developed in the area, mainly logging and quarrying, but this was associated with temporary roadworks or land-clearing for farm land.<sup>31</sup> In general, the pattern of land use in Castle Hill did not change for most of the nineteenth century and the area became known for its agriculture.

Initially the Castle Hill grants were cleared to graze cattle and sheep and to grow wheat and maize, but fruit-growing proved to be more lucrative.<sup>32</sup> Oranges and other citruses were the most popular crops, having been first grown nearby in Baulkham Hills by George Suttor in 1807.<sup>33</sup> The Castle Hill area became known for fruit-growing in the nineteenth century like much of northern Sydney. By the 1890s the Castle Hill district was considered to boast splendid orchards, model farms and houses.<sup>34</sup>

Larger farm plots began to be subdivided around Castle Hill in the early 1890s, precipitating changes in the use of land in the area. The smaller plots bought in these sales continued to be used to grow citrus fruits, but increasingly stone fruits, poultry, eggs and milk replaced them. The arrival of European migrants in the early twentieth century also resulted in the rise of market gardening in the area, which focused on vegetables and flowers as the main crops.<sup>35</sup>

Similarly, a tramway to Baulkham Hills opened in 1902 and was extended to Castle Hill in 1910. While this made it easier for agriculturalists to get their products to the city and elsewhere, it also made it much easier for people to move in and out of the area. Subdivisions of farming estates accelerated after the tramway was built through the area, often becoming a selling point for the land which was put on offer.<sup>36</sup> The subdivisions of the early twentieth century advanced Castle Hill's transition from a rural to suburban community, a process which was later completed by suburban development in the second half of the twentieth century.

From the 1960s, Castle Hill and the surrounding areas became part of the NSW Government's plan to make residential land available in the expanding Sydney area.<sup>37</sup> Residential developments quickly replaced small farms and market gardens. Between 1956 and 1978, the area surrounding the Showground experienced this transition, at which time the suburb came to reflect its current character (Figure 3.5 and Figure 3.6).

### 3.1.4 The Castle Hill Show and Showground

The Castle Hill show began in 1886, at the height of the district's citrus-growing period and just prior to the first subdivisions of the large estates. The show was first called 'Castle Hill Sports' and was based around agricultural games such as ploughing competitions.<sup>38</sup> In the early years the show was held at Rogans Hill, but later moved to its current location in 1891 when the land was dedicated as a showground specifically for the show.<sup>39</sup>

The showground land was part of the 200 acres around the 1810 Asylum set aside as a township reserve which bordered Michael Hancey's grants (Figure 3.1). This had been given over to the Church and Schools Corporation in the 1820s, which possibly rented it out for farming, but it later returned into government hands in the 1860s.<sup>40</sup> In keeping with its intended use as a public common, the land was dedicated as a recreation reserve in 1884 before being made a showground.<sup>41</sup> Other reserve land to the north across what is now Showground Road was also dedicated for this purpose in 1895, though it remained wooded well into the twentieth century (Figure 3.1 and Figure 3.4a).

The Castle Hill Agricultural and Horticultural Association built amenities on the showground soon after it was dedicated, with £300 being spent building a timber pavilion, stable, fencing and a track.<sup>42</sup> The show featured displays of agricultural goods and animals, later expanding to include parades and displays of machinery and cars. Following the First World War, the show expanded again and a permanent pavilion, the Taylor Pavilion, was built in 1925 to meet its growing needs.<sup>43</sup> During this time the showground land was heavily wooded beyond the cleared grounds (Figure 3.4a).

There was a brief lull in the show during the Second World War, but it reopened to great popularity in 1946. The show was considered second only to the Royal Easter Show at the time, which caused issues for the association. By 1960, maintenance costs had grown too large. To keep the show going, it was given over to the Baulkham Hills Shire Council—now the Hills Shire Council—by a land grant in 1960.<sup>44</sup> The surrounding land was still semi-rural at this time, but much of the trees present in the 1930s aerials had been cleared the late twentieth century. There was a spate of development after the Council took control of the showground. The Taylor Pavilion was converted to a theatre in 1965, which was followed by the construction of the Harvey Lowe Pavilion the next year.<sup>45</sup>

## 3.2 The Site

### 3.2.1 Early European and Agricultural History

The site was part of Michael Hancey's 1819 grant given after the colonial government changed its policies on land holdings in the Castle Hill area (Figure 3.1). Like the rest of the government farm lands, Hancey's grant was cleared for farming, becoming part of the agricultural milieu of the area in the nineteenth century. Hancey's name is associated with the site throughout the century until 1898, when the land was sold to Alfred Carpenter who then subdivided the land the same year. This was known as the Suttor Estate subdivision, which included the land of the site, which was divided between Lots 35 to 40 (Figure 3.2a).<sup>46</sup>

The sale of the land was unsuccessful until 1908, when it was purchased by orchardist William Power. Power bought many of the blocks in the sale, on-selling them the following year to an auctioneer who did much the same over the following decade. In the period between the subdivision sale and 1930, Lot 39 was planted with fruit trees, becoming an orchard. Aerials show that by 1930, there were buildings on Lots 35, 36, 39, and 40. Lot 38 is shown partially cleared, while Lot 37 is still wooded. The now heritage-listed house across Showground Road to the east is visible in this aerial, though appears to be much smaller than it currently is (Figure 3.4).

Three properties are considered of interest to the present study. Lots 39 and 40 fall within the boundary of Hills Showground Precinct East. Lot 37 falls within Hills Showground Precinct West and Doran Drive Precinct. Lot 36 falls within Hills Showground Precinct West, but the structures existing within the property are to the south of the study area. Figure 3.2b shows the layout of each property in relation to the 1930 aerial and the 1898 Suttor's Estate Subdivision.

Over the next few decades the site remained relatively unchanged. A rubbish dump located near the entrance of the showground was removed in 1949 at the request of the Showground trust.<sup>47</sup> A 1956 aerial shows that most of the remnant vegetation had been cleared from the land, especially on Lot 37 (Figure 3.5). The same aerial shows that additions had been made to the building on Lot 40 and new structures were built to the north of Lots 35, 37 and 38. It appears that an outbuilding associated with the cottage on Lot 39 was removed by 1956, but the aerials are not detailed enough to confirm this. A small building on the southwest of Lot 39 can be seen, however (Figure 3.5).

### 3.2.2 The Council Takes Over

The pattern of land use remained much the same through the 1960s. Much of the land was consolidated by Herbert Alley, a horse trainer, who trained trotters on the land, leasing the adjacent showground track to do so. He appears to have built some stables on the land as well. In 1971 Alley sold his land, part to a holding business and the rest to the Baulkham Hills Shire Council.<sup>48</sup> The portion which the council purchased appears to have covered the entirety of the site, as a 1978 aerial shows two football fields and the Council's work depot covering Lots 35 to 40 (Figure 3.6). The fields, gazetted for public recreation in 1971, covered Lots 38 and 39. One of the building of the Council's works depot is shown completed in this aerial. The building in the southeast corner of Lot 39 had been demolished to make way for one of the sports fields, while the building in the lot's southwest corner had been demolished and replaced by two new buildings likely associated with the playing fields (Figure 3.6). The heritage listed house across Showground Road (No. 128 Showground Road) was extended by this point, but still remained relatively isolated despite the suburban development to the south.

The next modifications on the land involved the construction of the Hills Shire Council Administrative Building, which was built over Lot 40 and part of Lot 39 in 1982.<sup>49</sup> This involved extensive clearing and disturbance of Lots 39 and 40, requiring the removal of the easternmost playing field, but left Lots 37 and 38 untouched. By 1994 aerials show the Hill Entertainment Centre as having been built, which covered these previously undeveloped lots.<sup>50</sup> The Council Works Depot was also shown completed by this time. By the 1990s the site and surrounding area had been heavily developed, losing its formerly rural character. No. 128 Showground Road was enclosed by suburban houses, but still had an orchard abutting the road.

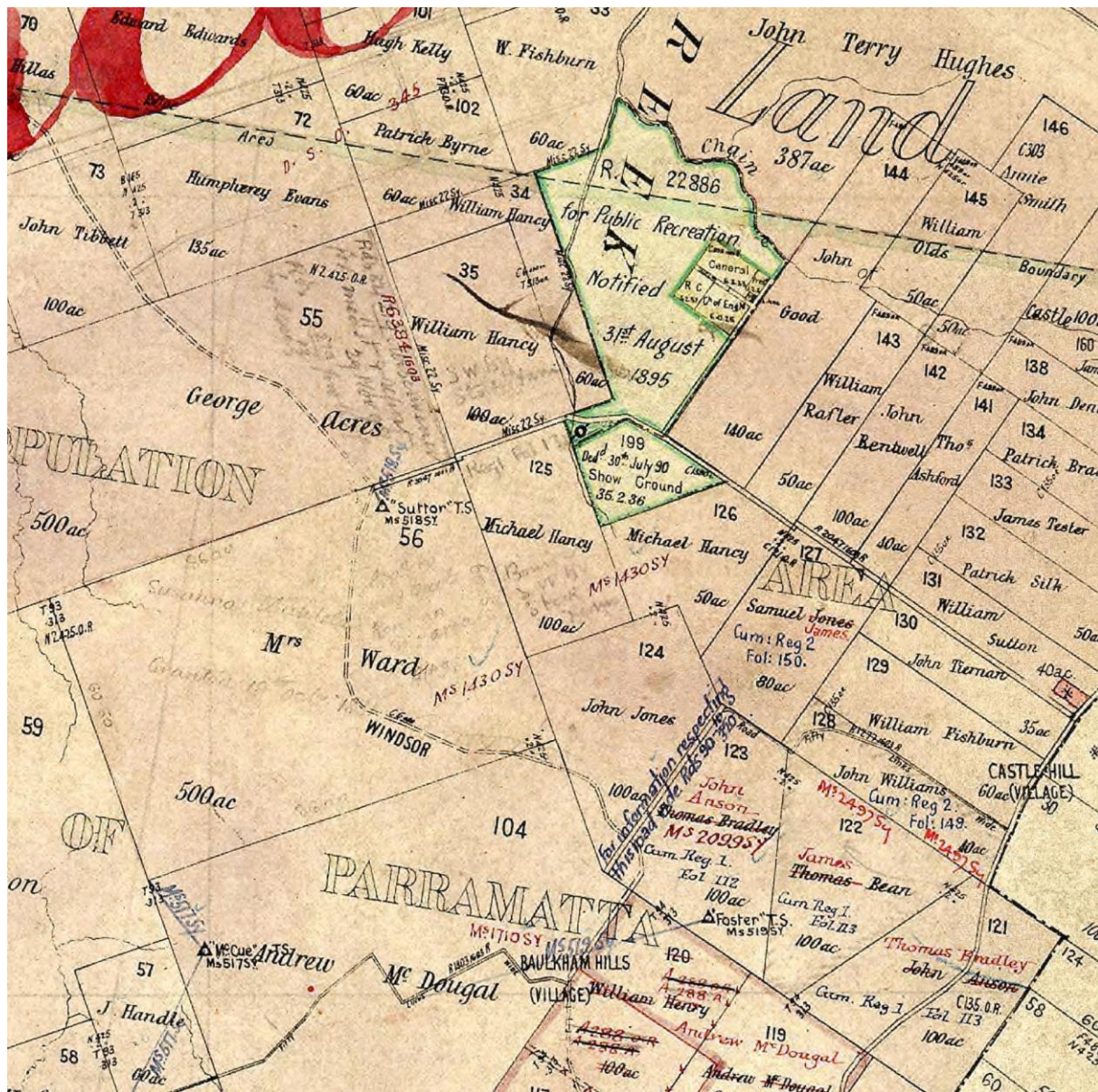
Figure 3.7 shows the site as it was in 2013. During this time, it was divided into three zones. To the west was the council depot, the oldest of the council buildings on the site. In the centre was the Hills Entertainment Centre. To its east was the Council Administrative Building, which occupied the most prominent position on the elevated corner of Carrington and Showground Roads.

### 3.2.3 The Metro and Beyond

From 1994 to 2013 the site was essentially unchanged, remaining in the same configuration (Figures 3.6 and 3.7). In 2013 the Hills Entertainment Centre was demolished to make way for the Showground Station, part of the North West Rail Link—now Sydney Metro Northwest. At the same time the council vacated the Administrative Building after it resumed by Sydney Metro, later being used as the office of the Northwest Rail team.<sup>51</sup> This was followed by the demolition of the council works depot in 2016, and

a four-storey commuter carpark for users of the metro station was constructed. In this intervening period No. 128 Showground Road had its orchard removed.

A 2019 aerial (Figure 3.9) shows the current configuration of the site. It has almost completely lost the traces of its rural, agricultural past. The showground directly to the north of the site is its last link to its former character. The metro project was completed in 2019. The site is now subject to a concept proposal for the revitalisation of the area directly to the south of the Castle Hill Showground.



**Figure 3.1** Parish Map from 1896. The Castle Hill Showground is outlined in green and clearly marked. (Source: Department of Lands)



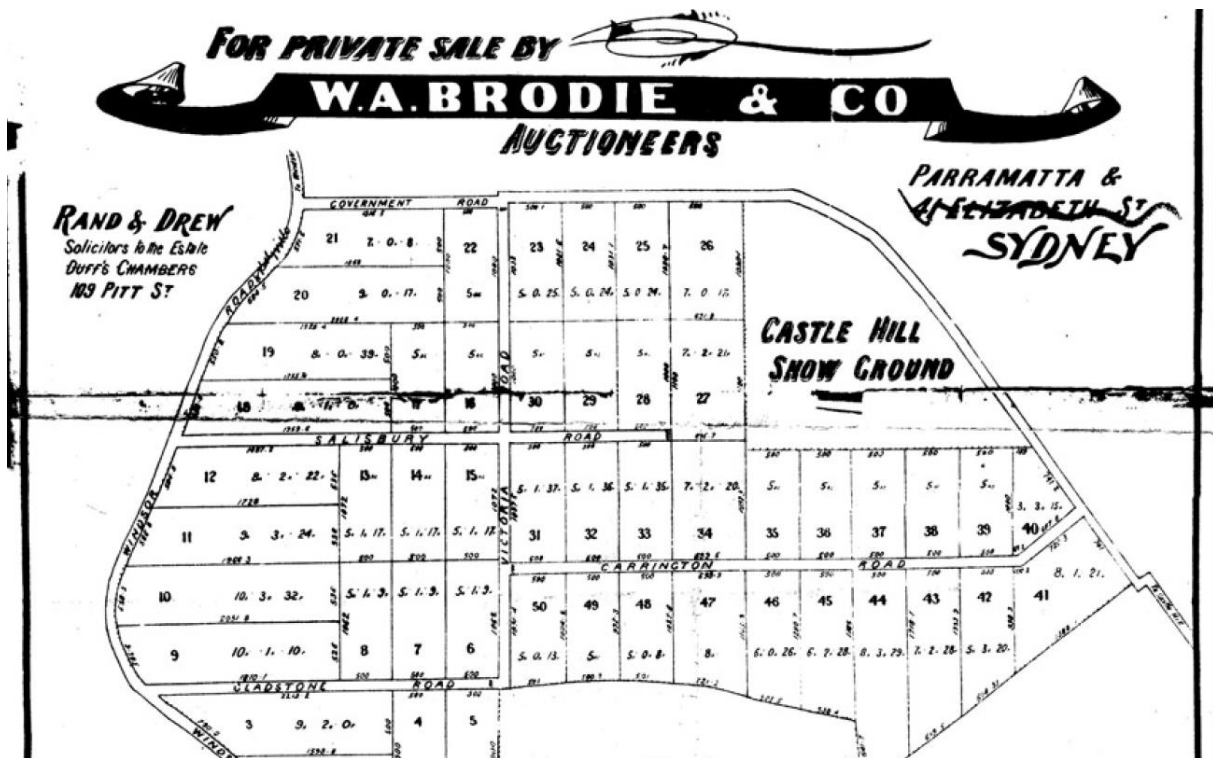


Figure 3.2 The 1898 Sutton's Estate Subdivision. The site covers Lots 35 to 40 on the plan. (Source: Hills Shire Council Local Studies)

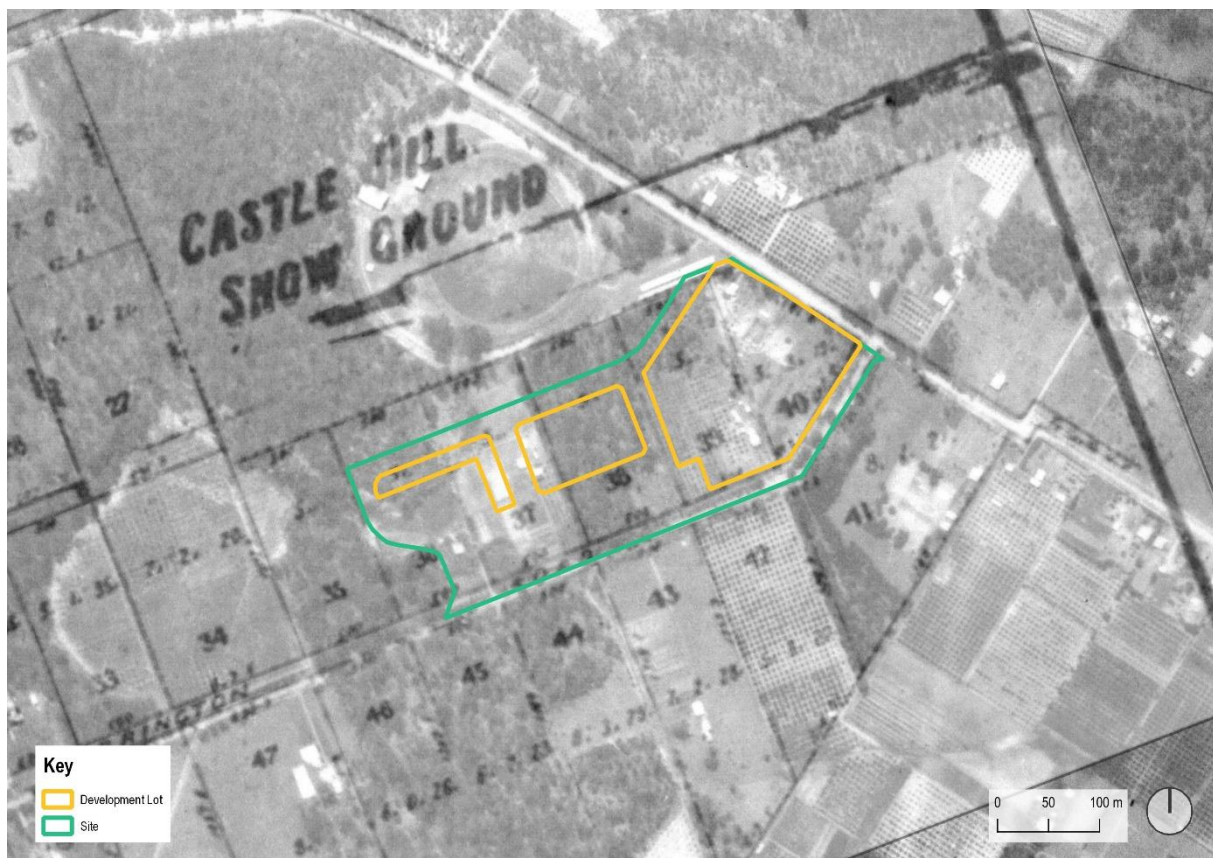


Figure 3.3 Location of farm properties visible in the 1930 aerial, overlaid with the 1898 Sutton's Estate Subdivision. (Source: Hills Shire Council Local Studies and Department of Lands, with GML modification)



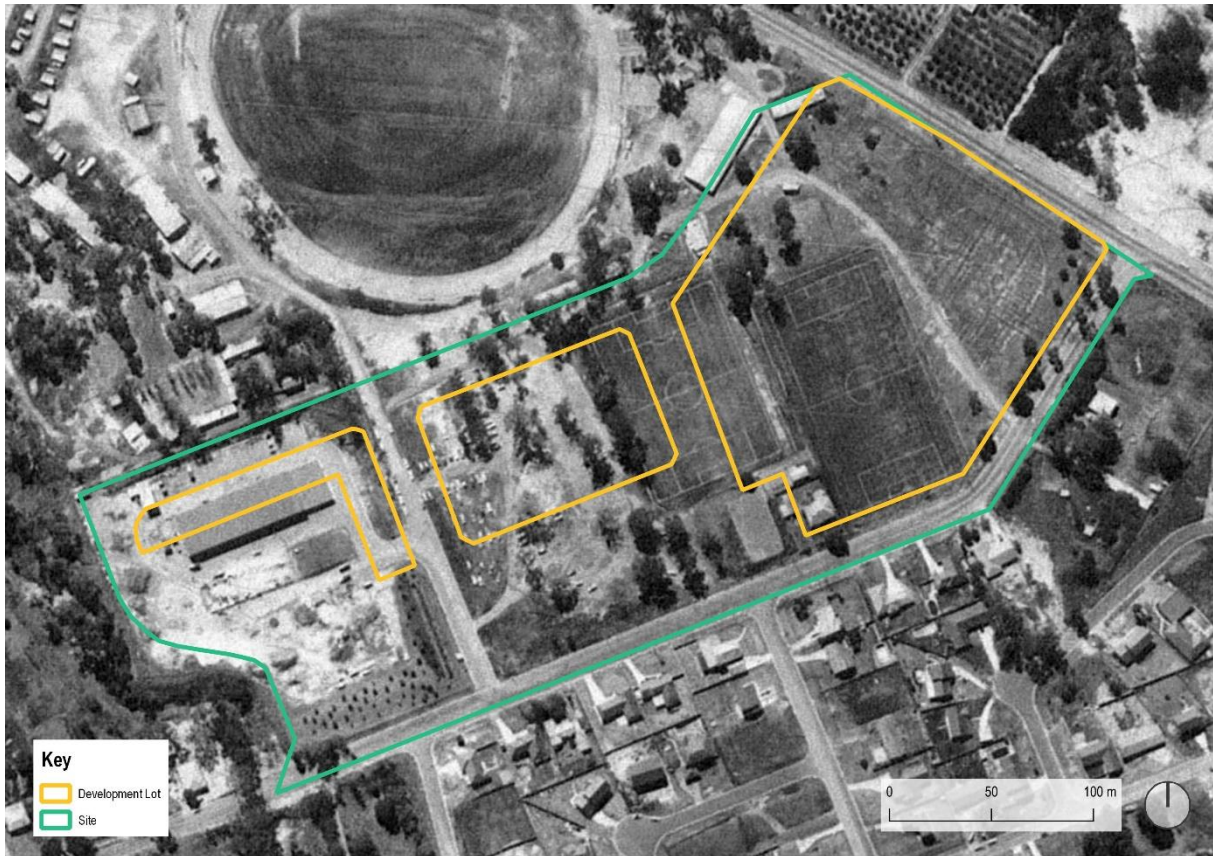
**Figure 3.4** 1930 aerial showing the percentage of land cleared for subdivision for orcharding and the extent of the showground complex.  
(Source: Department of Lands with GML overlay)



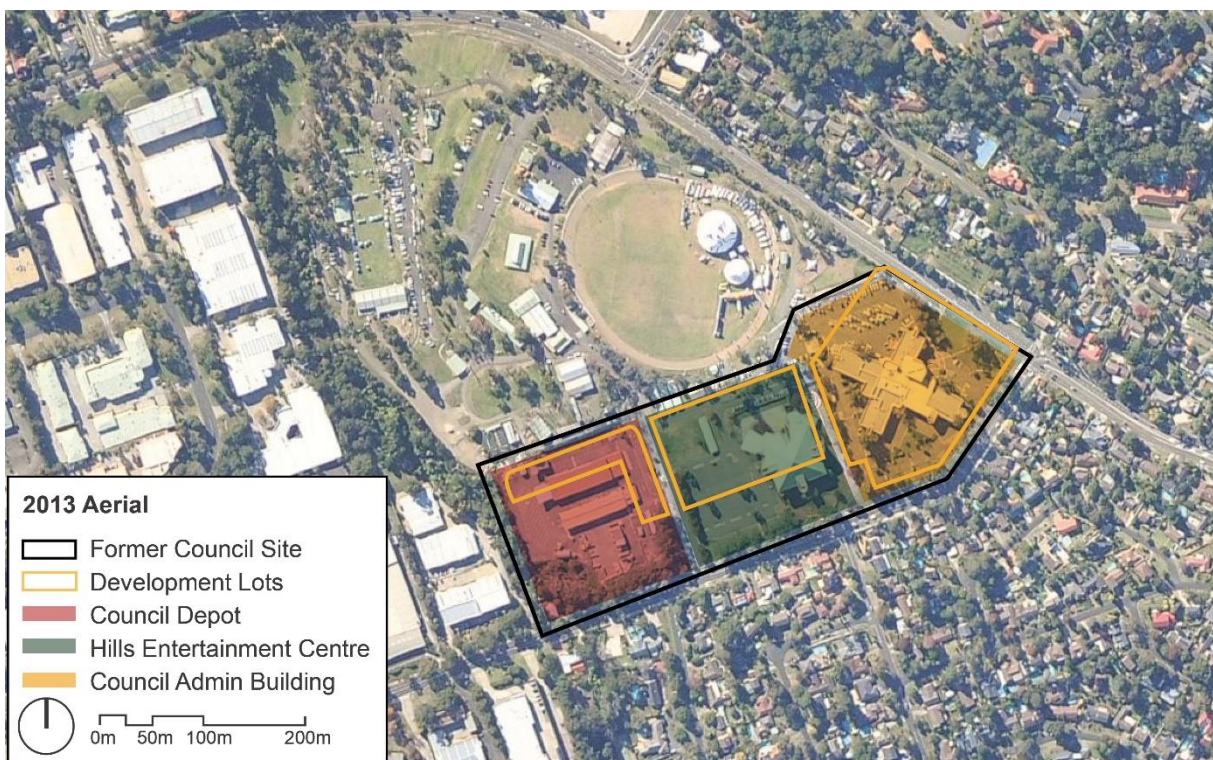


**Figure 3.5** 1956 aerial showing the extent of land clearing and the remaining orchards in the area and the extent and shape of the showground and its oval. (Source: Department of Lands with GML overlay)



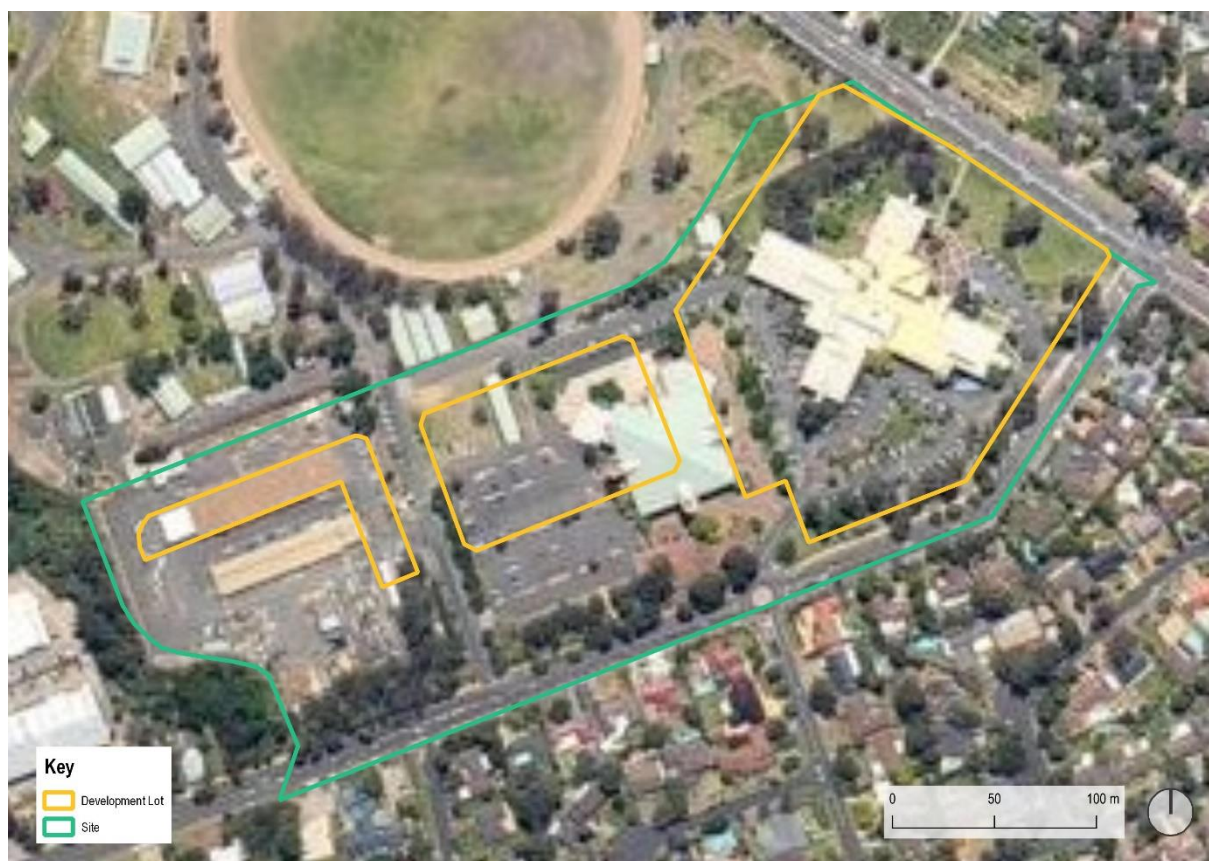


**Figure 3.6** 1978 aerial showing the red brick residential development of the east portion of the Precinct. (Source: Department of Lands with GML overlay)



**Figure 3.7** A 2013 aerial of the site showing the three 'zones' of the site during its use by the Hills Shire Council. (Source: Nearmap with GML overlay)





**Figure 3.8** 2009 aerial showing the low density residential development in the surrounding area. (Source: Nearmap and Department of Lands with GML overlay)



**Figure 3.9** 2019 aerial showing Showground Station and the site. (Source: Nearmap and Department of Lands with GML overlay)

### 3.3 Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> GML Heritage, Parramatta Park George Street Gatehouse—Geomorphology and Aboriginal Archaeology Report, report prepared for Parramatta Park Trust, July 2018, p i.
- <sup>2</sup> JMcDCHM, Archaeological survey - Lots 5 and 6, Victoria Road, Castle Hill, vol. 5, June 2009, p 9.
- <sup>3</sup> JMcDCHM, Archaeological survey - Lots 5 and 6, Victoria Road, Castle Hill, vol. 5, June 2009, p 6.
- <sup>4</sup> Attenbrow, V 2010, *Sydney's Aboriginal Past: Investigating the Archaeological and Historical Records*, University of New South Wales Press, Kensington, NSW, p 27.
- <sup>5</sup> Attenbrow, V 2010, *Sydney's Aboriginal Past: Investigating the Archaeological and Historical Records*, University of New South Wales Press, Kensington, NSW, p 26.
- <sup>6</sup> Attenbrow, V 2010, *Sydney's Aboriginal Past: Investigating the Archaeological and Historical Records*, University of New South Wales Press, Kensington, NSW, p 62.
- <sup>7</sup> Attenbrow, V 2010, *Sydney's Aboriginal Past: Investigating the Archaeological and Historical Records*, University of New South Wales Press, Kensington, NSW, p 28.
- <sup>8</sup> Attenbrow, V 2010, *Sydney's Aboriginal Past: Investigating the Archaeological and Historical Records*, University of New South Wales Press, Kensington, NSW, p 42.
- <sup>9</sup> JMcDCHM, Archaeological survey - Lots 5 and 6, Victoria Road, Castle Hill, vol. 5, June 2009, p 11.
- <sup>10</sup> Irish, P 2017, *Aboriginal History along the Cooks River*, Cooks River Alliance, NSW, p 11.
- <sup>11</sup> Irish, P 2017, *Aboriginal History along the Cooks River*, Cooks River Alliance, NSW, p 13.
- <sup>12</sup> Attenbrow, V 2010, *Sydney's Aboriginal Past: Investigating the Archaeological and Historical Records*, University of New South Wales Press, Kensington, NSW, p 27.
- <sup>13</sup> Rowland, J 2008, 'Castle Hill', Dictionary of Sydney, viewed 16 September 2019 <[http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/castle\\_hill](http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/castle_hill)>.
- <sup>14</sup> Smith, K 2010, 'Pemulwuy', Dictionary of Sydney, viewed 16 September 2019 <<http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/Pemulwuy>>.
- <sup>15</sup> Kohen, JL 2005, 'Pemulwuy (1750–1802)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, viewed 16 September 2019 <<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/pemulwuy-13147/text23797>>.

- 16 Kohen, JL 2005, 'Pemulwuy (1750–1802)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, viewed 16 September 2019 <<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/pemulwuy-13147/text23797>>.
- 17 Kohen, JL 2005, 'Pemulwuy (1750–1802)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, viewed 16 September 2019 <<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/pemulwuy-13147/text23797>>.
- 18 Graham Edds & Associates 1995, 'Baulkam Hills Heritage Study 1993–1994', Richmond, NSW, p 6.
- 19 Graham Edds & Associates 1995, 'Baulkam Hills Heritage Study 1993–1994', Richmond, NSW, p 6.
- 20 Norman, H 2015, 'Parramatta and Black Town Native Institutions', *Dictionary of Sydney*, viewed 16 September 2019 <[https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/parramatta\\_and\\_black\\_town\\_native\\_institutions](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/parramatta_and_black_town_native_institutions)>.
- 21 Norman, H 2015, 'Parramatta and Black Town Native Institutions', *Dictionary of Sydney*, viewed 16 September 2019 <[https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/parramatta\\_and\\_black\\_town\\_native\\_institutions](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/parramatta_and_black_town_native_institutions)>.
- 22 Norman, H 2015, 'Parramatta and Black Town Native Institutions', *Dictionary of Sydney*, viewed 16 September 2019 <[https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/parramatta\\_and\\_black\\_town\\_native\\_institutions](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/parramatta_and_black_town_native_institutions)>.
- 23 Kass, T 2005, *Western Sydney Thematic History—State Heritage Register Project*, Parramatta, NSW <<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/heritagebranch/heritage/ThematicHistoryWesternSydney.pdf>>.
- 24 Irish, P 2017, *Hidden in Plain View*, NewSouth Publishing.
- 25 Graham Edds & Associates 1995, 'Baulkam Hills Heritage Study 1993–1994', Richmond, NSW, p 8.
- 26 Graham Edds & Associates 1995, 'Baulkam Hills Heritage Study 1993–1994', Richmond, NSW, p 8.
- 27 Jervis, J 1929, 'The Beginnings of a Settlement in the Parish of Castle Hill', *The Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, Vol. 15, p 229.
- 28 Whitaker, A-M 2009, 'Castle Hill Convict Rebellion', *Dictionary of Sydney*, viewed 17 September 2019 <[https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/castle\\_hill\\_convict\\_rebellion\\_1804](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/castle_hill_convict_rebellion_1804)>.
- 29 Whitaker, A-M 2009, 'Castle Hill Convict Rebellion', *Dictionary of Sydney*, viewed 17 September 2019 <[https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/castle\\_hill\\_convict\\_rebellion\\_1804](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/castle_hill_convict_rebellion_1804)>.
- 30 Jervis, J 1929, 'The Beginnings of a Settlement in the Parish of Castle Hill', *The Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, Vol. 15, p 235.
- 31 Graham Edds & Associates 1995, 'Baulkam Hills Heritage Study 1993–1994', Richmond, NSW, pp 27–28.
- 32 The Hills Shire, 'A brief history of the Shire', The Hills Shire Local Studies Library, viewed 17 September 2019 <<https://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Library/Library-e-Resources/Local-Studies-Family-History/A-Brief-History-of-the-Shire#Settlement>>.
- 33 Hanna, K 2016, 'Oranges', *Dictionary of Sydney*, viewed 17 September 2019 <<https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/oranges>>.
- 34 Jeans, D 1980, *An Historical Geography of NSW to 1901*, Sydney, Reed, p 209.
- 35 The Hills Shire, 'A brief history of the Shire', The Hills Shire Local Studies Library, viewed 17 September 2019 <<https://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Library/Library-e-Resources/Local-Studies-Family-History/A-Brief-History-of-the-Shire#Settlement>>.
- 36 Graham Edds & Associates 1995, 'Baulkam Hills Heritage Study 1993–1994', Richmond, NSW, p 21.
- 37 Ashton, P and Freestone, R 2008, 'Planning', *Dictionary of Sydney*, viewed 17 September 2019 <<http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/planning>>.
- 38 Heimans, F 2011, 'Castle Hill and Hills District Agricultural Society – Di Dean interview', Hills Voices Online, viewed 17 September 2019 <<https://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Library/Library-e-Resources/Hills-Voices-Online/Community-Stories/Castle-Hill-and-Hills-District-Agricultural-Society-Di-Dean>>.
- 39 'Government Gazette Proclamations and Legislation', *New South Wales Government Gazette*, 30 July 1890, p 6043, viewed 17 September 2019 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article224318024>>.
- 40 Jervis J 1929, 'The Beginnings of a Settlement in the Parish of Castle Hill', *The Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, Vol. 15, p 235.
- 41 'Government Gazette Proclamations and Legislation', *New South Wales Government Gazette*, 30 July 1890, p 6043, viewed 17 September 2019 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article224318024>>.
- 42 Castle Hill Show Society, 2019, 'Society History', viewed 17 September <<http://www.castlehillshow.com.au/about-us/society-history.aspx>>.
- 43 Castle Hill Show Society, 2019, 'Society History', viewed 17 September <<http://www.castlehillshow.com.au/about-us/society-history.aspx>>.
- 44 1960, Land Grant, Old Form Torrens Register volume 7960 folio 250, NSW Lands and Registry Services.
- 45 Castle Hill Show Society, 2019, 'Society History', viewed 17 September <<http://www.castlehillshow.com.au/about-us/society-history.aspx>>.
- 46 EMGA Mitchell McLennan 2015, Showground Station—Sydney Metro Northwest, Historical Analysis, report prepared for Transport for NSW, p 7.

- <sup>47</sup> EMGA Mitchell McLennan 2015, Showground Station—Sydney Metro Northwest, Historical Analysis, report prepared for Transport for NSW, p 14.
- <sup>48</sup> EMGA Mitchell McLennan 2015, Showground Station—Sydney Metro Northwest, Historical Analysis, report prepared for Transport for NSW, p 14.
- <sup>49</sup> Creative Planning Solutions 2019, 'Statement of Environmental Effects: Demolition of the former The Hills Shire Council administration building', report prepared for Landcom, p 6.
- <sup>50</sup> EMGA Mitchell McLennan 2015, Showground Station—Sydney Metro Northwest, Historical Analysis, report prepared for Transport for NSW, p 14.
- <sup>51</sup> Creative Planning Solutions 2019, 'Statement of Environmental Effects: Demolition of the former The Hills Shire Council administration building', report prepared for Landcom, p 6.

## 4.0 Site Analysis

---

### 4.1 Visual Inspection of the Site

The site was inspected on 19 September 2019. The site is split into three development lots:

- Hills Showground Precinct West (Lot 52);
- Doran Drive Precinct (Lot 55); and
- Hills Showground Precinct East (Lot 56).

Hills Showground Precinct West and Doran Drive Precinct are empty grassed lots that were used for the construction of Hills Showground Station. Hills Showground Precinct East contains the former Council Administration Building, a two-storey office building which was used by Sydney Metro and the construction contractors as an office.

### 4.2 Description of the Site

The Hills Showground Station Precinct is identified in the State Significant Development Site Map within the State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011 (SDRP SEPP). The Site has a total area of approximately 8.4 hectares.

#### 4.2.1 Hills Showground Precinct West

Hills Showground Precinct West is a narrow L-shaped lot that wraps around two sides of the four storey commuter carpark at the western end of the Showground Precinct. It slopes steeply down from Doran Drive to the east towards the carpark and De Clambe Drive. The site is very narrow and contains drains at the lowest points. At present, a pedestrian footpath runs between the site and the carpark. The site is currently vacant of any built structures.

#### 4.2.2 Doran Drive Precinct

Doran Drive Precinct is located in the centre of the precinct, immediate to the north of Hills Showground Station and is a large rectangular lot surrounded on all four sides by recently formed roads. The site slopes downwards from Andalusian Way to its east towards Doran Drive in the west. The site is currently vacant of any structures and surrounded on all sides by hoarding. The site was most recently used for the construction of the Sydney Metro.

#### 4.2.3 Hills Showground Precinct East

Hills Showground Precinct East, at the eastern end of the precinct, is currently occupied by the former Hills Shire Council Administration Building. The two storey brick and concrete building, built in the 1980s, is surrounded on all sides by carparking and some landscaped gardens. The site is generally flat with a slight slope to the west. It has its main entrance from Carrington Street and secondary frontage to Showground Road. The demolition of the former Hills Council Administration building is the subject of a Development Application (DA 304/2020/LA), which is currently being assessed by Hills Shire Council.



## 4.3 Images of Development Lots

All site images were taken by GML consultants on 19 September 2019, unless stated otherwise.

### 4.3.1 General Site images



**Figure 4.1** Hills Showground Metro Station Canopy from near Hills Showground Precinct West.



**Figure 4.2** Hills Showground Metro Station Canopy (right) and Doran Drive Precinct (left).



**Figure 4.3** Hills Showground Metro Station Canopy.



**Figure 4.4** Hills Showground Metro Station service building.



**Figure 4.5** Hills Showground Metro Station Canopy.



**Figure 4.6** Hills Showground Metro Station ancillary building.





**Figure 4.7** View from the station plaza towards Hills Showground Precinct West and the carpark.



**Figure 4.8** View along De Clambe Drive towards Hills Showground Precinct East with Doran Drive Precinct on the right.



**Figure 4.9** View along Doran Drive towards Carrington Road. Hills Showground Precinct West is on the right and Doran Drive Precinct is on the left.



**Figure 4.10** View towards one of the service buildings and café from the carpark plaza.



**Figure 4.11** View along Andalusian Way. Doran Drive Precinct is to the left and Hills Showground Precinct East is to the right.



**Figure 4.12** View towards the carpark from inside Doran Drive Precinct.





**Figure 4.13** View from the top of the carpark towards the showground.

### 4.3.2 Hills Showground Precinct West



**Figure 4.14** View of the western end of the carpark.



**Figure 4.15** View across the carpark plaza towards the main pedestrian entrance to the multistorey carpark.



**Figure 4.16** View of Hills Showground Precinct West from the carpark.



**Figure 4.17** Hills Showground Precinct West as seen from the carpark plaza. Note the steep hill dropping down from Doran Drive.





**Figure 4.18** Hills Showground Precinct West as seen from the southeastern corner.



**Figure 4.19** View looking south from De Clambe Drive.



**Figure 4.20** View looking west across Hills Showground Precinct West from the pedestrian path.



**Figure 4.21** View to the east from the western edge of Hills Showground Precinct West.

### 4.3.3 Doran Drive Precinct



**Figure 4.22** View from the carpark towards Doran Drive Precinct.



**Figure 4.23** View across Doran Drive Precinct from the northwestern corner.



**Figure 4.24** View across Doran Drive Precinct towards the station canopy.



**Figure 4.25** View across Doran Drive Precinct towards the café.



#### 4.3.4 Hills Showground Precinct East



**Figure 4.26** View of the main entrance to the former council building.



**Figure 4.27** Detailed view of the office façade.



**Figure 4.28** View across the carpark to the administration building.



**Figure 4.29** View across Showground Road towards Hills Showground Precinct East.



**Figure 4.30** View along Showground Road (inside the site boundary) looking north.



**Figure 4.31** View of the landscaping in Hills Showground Precinct East.



**Figure 4.32** View across the lawn from Hills Showground Road to the former administration building.



**Figure 4.33** Detail of the landscaping present in Hills Showground Precinct East.



**Figure 4.34** View across the carpark inside Hills Showground Precinct East .



**Figure 4.35** View south towards the other service building.



**Figure 4.36** Looking towards the former administration building across the carpark.



### 4.3.5 Images of the Surrounding Area



**Figure 4.37** Looking southwest at the intersection of Showground Road and Carrington Road.



**Figure 4.38** View looking southwest along Carrington Road. Hills Showground Precinct East is to the right.



**Figure 4.39** View from Showground Road near the intersection with Britannia Road looking towards Hills Showground Station.



**Figure 4.40** View in the direction of the subject site from the intersection of Showground Road and Gilbert Road.

## 5.0 Description of Proposal

### 5.1 Introduction

Landcom is seeking consent for a State Significant Development Application (SSD-9653). The Concept Proposal comprises a high-density mixed-use precinct with a new public park and plaza on land located within the Hills Showground Station Precinct (The Site). The Concept Proposal includes 175,796m<sup>2</sup> of GFA for residential, retail and commercial use with building envelopes of varying heights from two to 20 storeys. The Development Lots are expected to yield up to 1,900 dwellings and between 6,700 and 13,600m<sup>2</sup> of commercial, retail and community GFA.

The development is to be split into three precincts listed below and as identified in Figure 5.1:

- Hills Showground Precinct West;
- Doran Drive Precinct; and
- Hills Showground Precinct East.

The proposed development meets the criteria for State Significant Development under the State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011 (SEPP), pursuant to Schedule 1, Paragraph 19(2).

Once the SSDA is approved, the successful purchasers of the development precincts and/or lots from Sydney Metro, will be responsible for submitting subsequent DAs for the design and construction of the buildings and public domain areas in accordance with the approved Concept.



**Figure 5.1** Site plan identifying the site boundary (light blue boundary) and the individual sites (yellow boundary). (Source: Nearmap with GML overlay)



No building or construction works are proposed to be undertaken as part of this Concept Proposal. The concept proposal is shown in Figure 5.2.



**Figure 5.2** Concept Plan. (Source: Hills Showground Concept Plans, COX Architecture)

## 5.2 Description of the Proposal

The key elements of the Concept Proposal are:

Hills Showground Precinct West and Doran Drive Precinct will be developed for both residential and non-residential and Hills Showground Precinct East will be developed for residential uses. Below is a breakdown of the main features of the three sites:

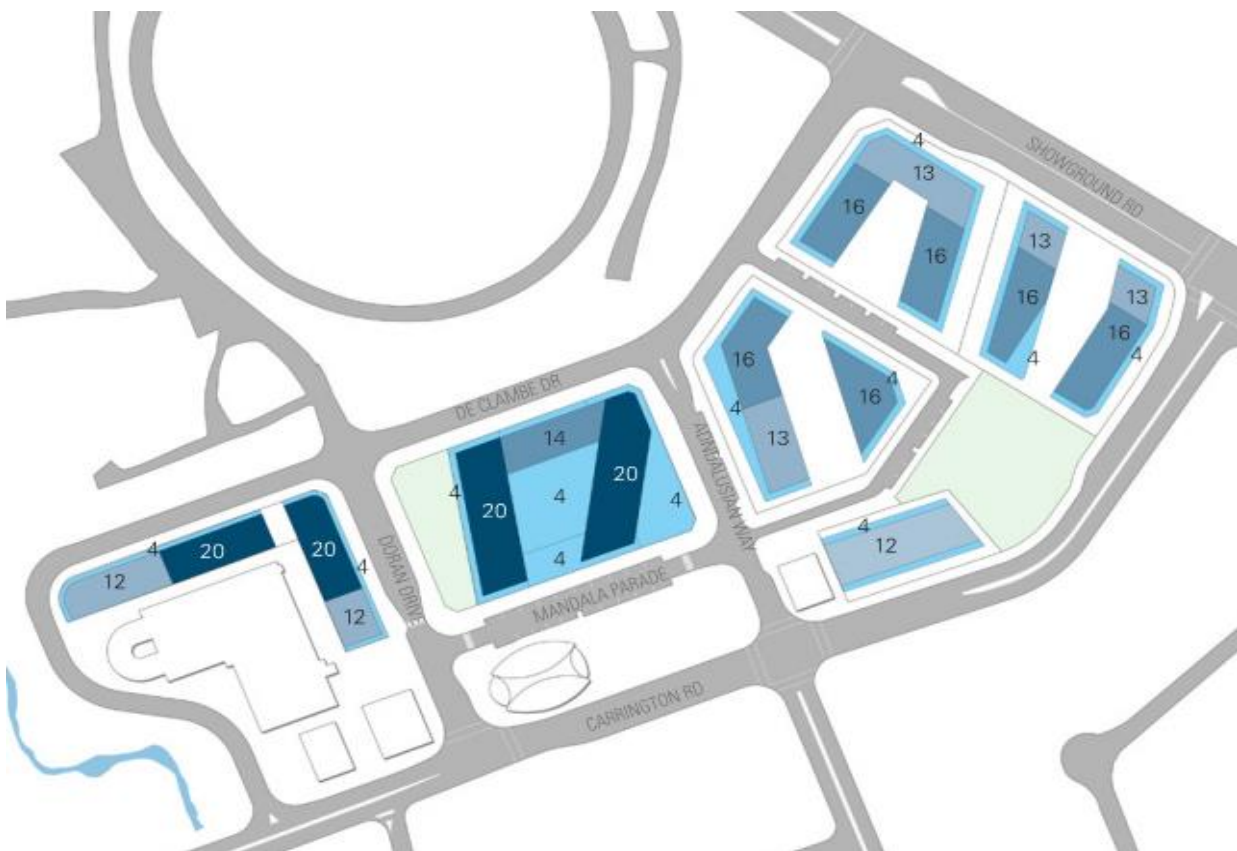
- Hills Showground Precinct West is planned to have two separate buildings, each with two towers, ranging from 4 to 20 storeys. It has a proposed GFA of 29,220m<sup>2</sup>, of which 26,435m<sup>2</sup> is to be residential and 2,758 m<sup>2</sup> non-residential development. This precinct will provide up to 294 residential units.
- Doran Drive Precinct is planned to have four towers on a podium with a maximum height of up to 20 storeys. It has a proposed GFA of 51,340m<sup>2</sup>, of which 40,498m<sup>2</sup> is expected to be residential and 10,842m<sup>2</sup> is non-residential, including commercial, retail, community facilities and a supermarket. This Precinct will yield 455 residential units and will provide open space in the form of a plaza at the west of the site and communal gardens on the podium.



- Hills Showground Precinct East is planned to have up to six buildings with a maximum height of up to 16 storeys, stepping up from 12 to 16 storeys proposed. It has a proposed GFA of 95,378m<sup>2</sup> which is to be entirely residential. This precinct will yield 1,060 units and will contain a new street running between Carrington Road and De Clambe Drive, a pocket park, green pedestrian links and communal open space.

The Concept Plan (Figure 5.2) contains provisions for open space in Doran Drive Precinct and Hills Showground Precinct East, in addition to the existing station plaza and the Castle Hill Showground. The location of the green space creates a grid and a continuous, connected landscape from Cattai Creek and the showground, through Doran Drive Plaza, along Mandala Parade and throughout the Hills Showground Precinct East. The proposed towers have been oriented to allow for maximum sunlight to the public and communal open spaces throughout all of the sites.

Figure 5.3 identifies the building heights in storeys and the form of the proposed podiums and towers.



**Figure 5.3** Heights of buildings in storeys. (Source: Hills Showground Concept Plans, COX Architecture 2019)

## 6.0 Assessment of Aboriginal Archaeological Potential

---

### 6.1 Introduction

This section assesses the potential for Aboriginal heritage including objects and places or features (including biological diversity) of cultural value within the subject site. This assessment includes a review of the environmental and archaeological context, including landscape setting, geological data and previous archaeological investigations. This information is used to develop a model to predict those areas within the site that may contain Aboriginal archaeological objects, and places or features of cultural value.

### 6.2 Environmental Context

The purpose of this section is to provide environmental contextual information for use in developing a predictive model of Aboriginal site locations in or near the study area. Interactions between people and their surroundings are of integral importance in both the initial formation and the subsequent preservation of the archaeological record. The nature and availability of resources, including water, flora and fauna, and suitable raw materials for the manufacture of stone tools and other items had—and continues to have—a significant influence over the way in which people use the landscape.

Alterations to the natural environment also impact on the preservation and integrity of cultural materials that may have been deposited, whilst current vegetation and erosional regimes affect the visibility and detectability of Aboriginal sites and objects.

In general, Aboriginal artefacts are either identified on the ground surface or buried within the soil's biomantle.<sup>1</sup> The biomantle comprises the upper layers of soil—the organic A<sub>1</sub> and degrading A<sub>2</sub> soils. The biomantle is often separated from the clays (a product of bedrock decay and breakdown of residual soils) by a sharp and distinct boundary. The biomantle layer can be subject to many formation processes including bioturbation, the mixing of soils by active agents such as ants, worms etc. It is generally understood that over time, Aboriginal artefacts can move through the biomantle, ascending and descending, as a result of natural soil formation processes. This may affect the vertical distribution of artefacts, culminating in an absence of stratigraphy. In residual duplex soils, the vertical position of an artefact is therefore not an indication of its age. The nature of duplex soils, with a hard and distinct boundary to basal B horizon clay, means that in general Aboriginal artefacts do not become incorporated into this layer. Artefacts can be pressed into the top of the B clay layer or mixed through the A<sub>2</sub>/B boundary by tree roots or insects, or in some instances are found in cracking that has opened into and through the clay, where A<sub>2</sub> descends and fills the voids caused by cracking. However, it is unlikely that artefacts are often recovered from B horizon layers. Understanding the soil landscapes in the region in light of this information assists in predicting the depth of archaeological potential across the site.

#### 6.2.1 Geology and Topography

The study area is located on a hill slope that slopes gently westwards towards Cattai Creek, 50–450m west of the site. The original Cattai Creek alignment was altered with the construction of the Hills Shire Council Depot, with bulk filling causing it to move around 30m west to its current position. At present, Cattai Creek runs along an artificial, incised sandstone channel that has been cut down to a depth of around 10m below the surrounding landscape.<sup>2</sup>

Cattai Creek is a second order tributary of the Hawkesbury River, located to the northwest of the study area. The segment of Cattai Creek in the vicinity of the study area is near the headwaters of a large

catchment. It is, therefore, well located to a reliable freshwater water supply that could have supported an Aboriginal population all year round.<sup>3</sup> The creek would have also provided a large amount of aquatic and terrestrial fauna, which could be used for food.<sup>4</sup> The area would also have supported a range of terrestrial fauna, such as kangaroo, wallaby, possum, echidna, bandicoot and smaller animals. The Aboriginal people would also have harvested yams, roots, honey, and native fruits.<sup>5</sup>

According to the 1:100,00 series soil landscape maps for Sydney,<sup>6</sup> the site overlies the Hawkesbury and Glenorie soil landscapes (Figure 6.2). Hills Showground Precinct East and the eastern half of Doran Drive Precinct are located on the Glenorie soil landscape, which occurs on Wianamatta Group shale, and are typically highly erosive, with natural topsoils usually containing friable loam underlain by harder clay. The Glenorie soil landscape in the site is located on a slope, and therefore it is expected that any artefact-bearing topsoil would be shallow to a depth of around 150mm. Hills Showground Precinct West and the western half of Doran Drive Precinct are on the lower-slope Hawkesbury sandstone soil landscape. On these lower slopes the topsoil, a loose quartz sand, tends to be discontinuous between outcrops of sandstone bedrock. The geotechnical investigations outlined later in this chapter (Section 6.3.2) provide specific data on the soil conditions within the site.



**Figure 6.1** Contour elevation in the subject site at 2m intervals. (Source: Six Maps aerial, with GML inclusions, 2019)





**Figure 6.2** Soil landscapes in the vicinity of the site. (Source: 1:100,00 series Soil Landscape Maps for Sydney, with GML inclusions, 2019)

## 6.3 Archaeological Context

### 6.3.1 Aboriginal Heritage Information Management Sydney (AHIMS)

GML undertook a search of the AHIMS database in September 2019 to identify registered Aboriginal sites within the site and surrounding area. The search analysed an area of approximately 4km around the site (Table 6.1; Figure 6.3). The aim of this process is not only to determine if there are any registered sites being directly impacted by the proposed works, but also to provide contextual information about site patterns on a more regional basis.

The AHIMS results confirmed that there are no registered Aboriginal sites within the site. Within the wider area, 60 registered sites were identified. The search returned five primary site types: Aboriginal resource and gathering, artefacts, grinding grooves, rock shelters, and potential archaeological deposits (PAD). Many of these sites comprised a combination of each—for example, two sites were classified as a rock shelter also containing art and a grinding groove, and one site was identified as containing a grinding groove and artefact(s).

By far, the largest site type identified was that containing artefact(s). These registered sites can contain either a single, isolated find or an accumulation of material. Artefact scatters can suggest an open camp site. Such sites have been identified on both the surface (surface scatter) or during excavation across all landforms in the region.

Site patterning relates primarily to the surrounding landscape. Rock shelter sites, for example, have been recorded in sandstone outcrops associated with the Hawkesbury sandstone formation. Similarly,

many of the sites identified in the AHIMS search were located around the various tributaries of Cattai Creek where resources would be abundant. This patterning assisted in determining the location of PADs, such as that directly to the west of site 1 (AHIMS No. 45-5-4265, also identified as NWRL PAD3), which wraps around Cattai Creek.

Three sites were recorded within a 1km radius of the study area: the PAD, a rock grinding groove, and a shelter with art and deposit (Figure 6.4). Of the three sites, it is the PAD which most suggests that Aboriginal cultural lithics might be found in the western part of the study area.. It was identified as part of an investigation in 2006 performed by Jo McDonald Cultural Heritage Management (JMcDCHM).<sup>7</sup>

The site was originally identified as an 'open lithic scatter and associated PAD', but was registered with AHIMS as a PAD. The low-density scatter of cultural lithics was found on the western side of Cattai Creek, and spread over an area of 10m by 40m.<sup>8</sup> It comprised four artefacts fashioned from silcrete and tuff. JMcDCHM recorded that:

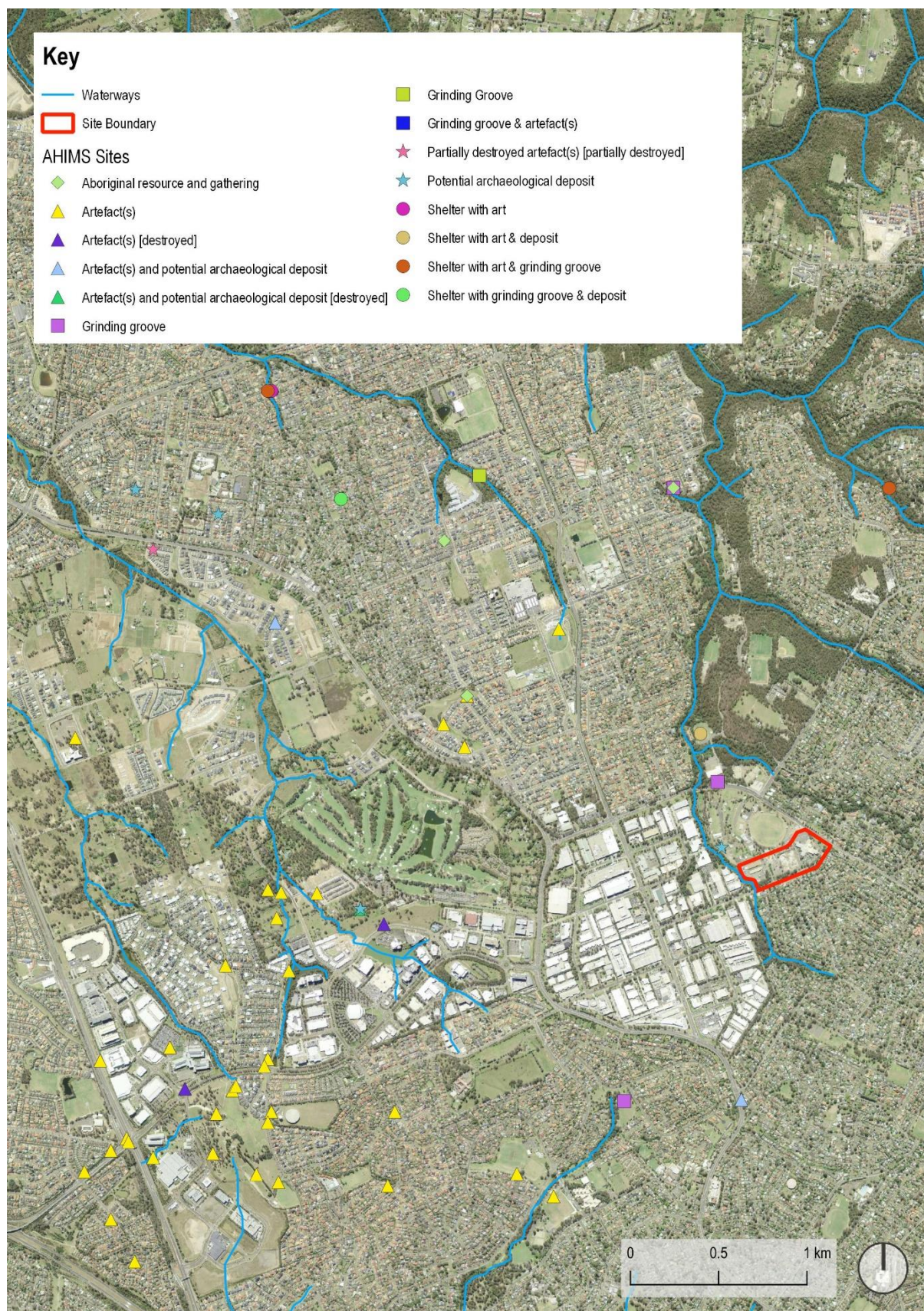
*the small area of potentially intact deposit has been extensively cleared and is subject to small areas of disturbance associated with the construction of office blocks, car parks and picnic areas.<sup>9</sup>*

Consequently, the PAD is likely to contain 'variably intact deposits'. However, there remains a low possibility of additional Aboriginal artefacts being located along the creek banks in some of the less disturbed areas.

**Table 6.1** Registered Sites from 17 September 2019 AHIMS Search.

Site Type	Number	%
Aboriginal resource and gathering	3	5
Artefacts(s) <sup>10</sup>	39	65
Artefact(s) and potential archaeological deposit <sup>11</sup>	4	7
Grinding groove	4	7
Grinding groove and artefact(s)	1	1.5
Potential archaeological deposit	4	6.5
Shelter with art	1	1.5
Shelter with art and deposit	1	1.5
Shelter with art and grinding groove	2	3.5
Shelter with grinding groove and deposit	1	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100%</b>





**Figure 6.3** AHIMS sites around Castle Hill based on 17 September 2019 AHIMS search. (Source: AHIMS search results on Six Maps aerial, with GML inclusions, 2019)





**Figure 6.4** AHIMS sites within 1km of the subject site based on 17 September 2019 AHIMS search. (Source: AHIMS search results on Six Maps aerial, with GML inclusions, 2019)

### 6.3.2 Relevant Local Literature

This section analyses relevant local literature, including heritage and geotechnical studies, to understand the potential for Aboriginal archaeology to occur within the Site. Extensive work has been undertaken in advance of development for the NWRL. The following section provides a summary of work undertaken for that project within the vicinity of the study area.

No previous Aboriginal excavation has been undertaken within the site. However, three excavations within the direct vicinity have been completed. These were performed by EMM in 2013 (between the Hills Showground Precinct West and western portion of Doran Drive Precinct) RPS in 2013 (south of Hills Showground Precinct West), and JMcDCHM in 2006 (west of Hills Showground Precinct West). Moreover, a number of archaeological assessments in the general area around the site have also been completed.

The literature concludes that there is nil to low potential for Aboriginal archaeology to remain within the Lot Boundaries. This is the result of past ground disturbance due to construction works. Those works have removed the shallow layers of natural soil, to the depth of sterile basal clay or sandstone bedrock, and replaced it with modern, disturbed fill.



### **Proposed North West Rail Link Alignment—Aboriginal Archaeological Assessments—JMcDCHM Pty Ltd, 2006<sup>12</sup>**

JMcDCHM undertook a detailed Aboriginal heritage assessment of the proposed alignment of the NWRL in 2006. The report focused on an area within 250m of the impact corridor, which covers the present site.

The study acknowledged that the area within the NWRL alignment between Rouse Hill and Epping, which includes Castle Hill Station, comprises a highly modified and disturbed landscape. Moreover, the report found that no land was identified as being in pristine condition, and the few areas with moderate potential had at least some impact from past land use. It therefore concluded that the potential for intact archaeological deposits was low. Despite this, the report identified a number of Aboriginal heritage sites across the alignment.

JMcDCHM did not identified any sites within the study area. However, one low-density artefact scatter and PAD (AHIMS No. 45-5-4265) was identified, as a result of the study, in very close proximity to the site (Figure 6.4).

A PAD was registered as a result of the scatter. The JMcDCHM report does not directly state the exact location of the artefact scatter within the PAD, although it claims that the lithics were found on the western side of Cattai Creek. The PAD boundary extends across both sides of the Creek. However, it extends further on the eastern side than the western side. This is due to the higher potential for artefacts on the eastern side of the creek, resulting from less disturbance to the landscape. The western side of Cattai Creek has been developed with modern commercial offices.

The PAD, as stated above (Section 6.3), is located directly adjacent to the study area. The edge of the PAD is only approximately 20m from the westernmost boundary of Hills Showground Precinct West. JMcDCHM determined that the PAD boundary should extend approximately 100m northward, along the alignment of Cattai Creek. Consequently, the PAD site also extends to the northwest of the site.

This site was deemed to have a moderate level of archaeological potential. However, when test pits were excavated by RPS in the southern portion of the PAD (see below), no artefacts were recovered.

### **NWRL Proposed Showground Station—Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Report—RPS, 2013<sup>13</sup>**

In 2013, RPS undertook test excavation to examine the PAD (AHIMS No. 45-5-4265) identified by JMcDCHM in 2006. The project excavated six pits. They were located directly southwest of the current site (Figures 6.5). The program was based on the 2012 GML + JMCHM assessment<sup>14</sup> and methodology.<sup>15</sup>

The excavations identified severe disturbance to the landscape. In all trenches, the top layer of soil, to a depth of at least 20cm, was disturbed with layers of fill containing modern material. In all cases, the fill sat directly above sterile basal clay, which contains no potential for archaeology.

At the conclusion of these excavations, RPS determined that the PAD was 'incorrectly identified', and its status as an AHIMS site should be converted to 'not valid'. Firstly, RPS stated that 'no discernible stratigraphic units relating to cultural deposition were observed', in other words the pits were completely filled with a homogenous and highly disturbed fill.<sup>16</sup> Secondly, no artefacts were recovered from any of the test trenches.

GML disagrees with this conclusion for three reasons. Firstly, only a small portion, the southernmost area, of the PAD was sampled. Secondly, no excavation has taken place in the area where JMcDCHM identified the artefact scatter in 2006. Thirdly, further excavation should be undertaken in the northwest corner of the PAD before it is deemed invalid. This is because a grinding groove (AHIMS No. 45-5-0132) is located in that location, and there is therefore a higher potential for associated artefacts to be found nearby. GML does agree that the boundary of the PAD should be updated on the AHIMS database to remove the southernmost area as a result of the excavations completed by RPS.

**Table 6.2** Test Unit Description of Aboriginal Trenches Near the Study Area, Excavated by RPS in 2013 (Data source: RPS 2013).

Pit #	Coordinates (GDA94 zone 56)	Depth to Clay (m)
343-612	E 313343 N 6266123	0.1
347-612	E 313347 N 6266121	0.17
372-613	E 313372 N 6266136	0.4 before contaminated material was found and excavation ceased
364-615	E 313364 N 6266154	0.2
366-614	E 313366 N 6266145	0.23
365-615	E 313365 N 6266151	0.2

### **NWRL Alignment—EIS 1 Aboriginal Archaeological Report and Research Design—GML + JMcDCHM, 2012<sup>17</sup>**

In March 2012 GML + JMcCHM prepared an archaeological report and research design including the perceived impacts of the proposed NWRL on Aboriginal and European heritage. The report and research design supported the EIS for the Major Civil Construction Works component of the NWRL project. It identified heritage items within, and close to, the NWRL corridor, evaluated their significance, and assessed the potential impacts that could result from proposed works.

GML + JMcDCHM assessed the aforementioned PAD (AHIMS No. 45-5-4265), following the earlier JMcDCHM report in 2006 (see above). The study, agreeing with the earlier report, determined that the site has moderate potential to contain Aboriginal archaeology. It proposed that, until archaeological test excavations were undertaken, its level of heritage significance was unknown.

The impact to Aboriginal heritage as a result of NWRL construction was determined to be direct and partial. This conclusion was reached as not all of the PAD would be impacted by NWRL construction. Aboriginal heritage management recommended a 'detailed Phase 1 archaeological excavation in the areas of impact, with possible Phase 2 archaeological excavation, which was to be determined based on the results of Phase 1'.<sup>18</sup>

### **NWRL Showground Precinct—Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment—GML, 2015<sup>19</sup>**

In 2015, GML undertook a Cultural Heritage Assessment of the NWRL Precinct Area that covered a large portion of Castle Hill. The subject site is only a small part of this extensive assessment. However, the report provides a comprehensive investigation of archaeological sites in the vicinity of the present study area.

The report further provides a comprehensive predictive model for the Cumberland Plain, locating areas of higher potential for containing Aboriginal archaeology. The prediction notes that in the middle reaches

of minor tributaries (second order creeks like Cattai Creek) there will be archaeological evidence for sparse but focused activity. This includes, for example, one-off camp locations and/or single episode knapping floors. In addition, the most likely site types found within the Showground Precinct are open camp sites or artefact concentrations, and isolated finds. Artefact concentrations are often found on slightly sloping to level ground, usually within 100 to 200m of a watercourse.

The evidence supplied in the 2015 GML report suggests that within the study area, Hills Showground Precinct West would contain the highest potential for Aboriginal archaeology due to its location close to Cattai Creek. At the same time, the report confirmed that there was historical disturbance across the site; the development of buildings and landscaping across these sites would have caused high disturbance, removing any shallow, highly erosional, artefact bearing topsoil.

### **Proposed NWRL Alignment—Geotechnical Data Report—Coffey Geotechnics, 2009<sup>20</sup>**

In 2009, a geotechnical investigation was undertaken along the proposed alignment of the NWRL. This included a single borehole (BH243) in close vicinity to sites Hills Showground Precinct West and Doran Drive Precinct.<sup>21</sup>

The borehole demonstrated that the landscape comprises a 'shallow clay fill and residual clay overlying highly weathered sandstone'.<sup>22</sup> The approximate thickness of the imported fill in this area was 0.6m. The results align with the excavations performed by RPS in 2013 (see above). They conclude that no natural sands were present in the direct vicinity of the borehole. Moreover, residual basal clay and weathered sandstone are considered to be sterile of archaeology.

As a result, the area investigated by RPS and Coffey Geotechnics, south of Hills Showground Precinct West and southwest of Doran Drive Precinct, has no potential for Aboriginal archaeology.

### **NWRL Showground Station—Historic Excavations—EMM, 2013<sup>23</sup>**

In 2013, EMM undertook historical excavations in the area between Hills Showground Precinct West (easternmost) and Doran Drive Precinct (Figure 6.5). Although not Aboriginal archaeological investigations, these excavations illustrate the subsurface conditions in the direct vicinity of the Development Lots. Further information about the historical excavations can be found in Section 8.2.

Excavation of the two trenches confirmed that there was a layer of imported fill across the area. The southern trench, referred to as Open Area 1 in the report, was excavated to a depth of 0.5m. At this depth, the base of the trench was still within the fill deposit. This indicates that the modern disturbance to the area extends deeper than half a metre from the surface. The northern trench, Open Area 2, was excavated to a depth of 0.8m. The fill, 0.25m deep, sat directly above residual clay of decaying sandstone bedrock overlaying intact bedrock. This layer is considered sterile of archaeological remnants.

This report confirms that intact historical and natural soils have been removed from the area between Hills Showground Precinct West and Doran Drive Precinct. Consequently, no historical or Aboriginal artefacts were recovered, or were expected to be recovered. As the two trenches were located within 20m of the study area, it is highly probable that parts of the study area are equally disturbed. Any archaeological deposits are likely to have been replaced by modern fill.

## Sydney Metro Northwest Showground Station—Report on UST Validation—Douglas Partners, 2016<sup>24</sup>

In 2016, Douglas Partners tested the area around Site 1 to generate a UST validation and waste classification.

Six boreholes and a number of deep pits were excavated in the area of Site 1, in the area between the two sleeves.<sup>25</sup> Six boreholes were created through fill, and terminated at natural soils. This work was completed prior to the construction of the carpark directly adjacent to Site 1. As stated below (Section 6.4), the landscaping during this development would have removed the natural soils.

The report also states that the area is highly disturbed. Other subsurface investigations found concrete and asphalt above fills that ranged to a depth of between 40cm to 3,3m below ground level. The fills were directly above natural clay layers.<sup>26</sup> The results show that the natural soils have been removed, and no Aboriginal or historical archaeology would remain in the area.



**Figure 6.5** Location of EMM excavations in 2013, in relation to current Study Area. (Source: Six Maps aerial, with GML inclusions, 2019)

## 6.4 Modern Land Use and Disturbance

Evidence from the relevant literature, described above, indicated the nil to low potential for Aboriginal archaeological potential within the study area. The site has been impacted by historical development since the wider area was set aside as Government Grounds. Section 3.0 outlines the history of the subject site and Section 8.0 details the historical impacts that have occurred within it.

The present state of the study area further confirms the high level of disturbance.



### Hills Showground Precinct West

Due to the construction of the adjacent carpark, Hills Showground Precinct West has been heavily landscaped (Figures 6.6–6.7). One to two levels of the carpark are located below the natural ground level. The banks slope steeply down to the lowest level of the carpark. As previously stated, the natural soils in the study area would be shallow. Consequently, this high level of landscaping would have removed any natural soils and any Aboriginal artefacts.



**Figure 6.6** Present elevation of West Precinct (left) compared to the road (right). (Source: GML 2019)



**Figure 6.7** Present landscaping of West Precinct (east). (Source: GML 2019)

### Doran Drive Precinct

Doran Drive Precinct currently comprises a large area of deposited fill, built up by at least 1.5m (Figures 6.8–6.9). It was, therefore, not possible to see the natural soils beneath. However, continuous ground disturbance through excavation is likely to have removed upper levels of the soils below this deposited fill. Shallow Aboriginal deposits are highly likely to have been disturbed.



**Figure 6.8** Overview of Doran Drive Precinct. (Source: GML 2019)



**Figure 6.9** Fill confined within Doran Drive Precinct. Deposit approximately 1.5m high. (Source: GML 2019)

### Hills Showground Precinct East

The majority of Hills Showground Precinct East has been disrupted by the Council Administration building and surrounding carparks (Section 6.0).

The very eastern edge of the Development Lot, adjacent to Showground Road, comprises a grassed area running southeast–northwest (Figures 6.10–6.11). The area initially appeared to be one of the most intact areas of ground across the three sites, due to the lack of buildings. In addition, the grassed area



follows the natural contours of the land, which slope downward to the east. However, further investigation indicated that it was highly disturbed.

Active landscaping has clearly been undertaken during a number of phases. Firstly, the 1978 aerial (Figure 3.5) shows disturbance to the area, represented by a crisscross pattern through the earth. The adjacent sports fields also required landscaping to level the ground (Figure 3.5). Secondly, small brick retaining walls currently exist on the site (Figures 6.10–6.11), showing the deposition of fills behind the walls, or removal of soil in front of them. The structures relate to the construction of the Council Administration Building, one of them once brandishing the nameplate of the Hills Shire Council. These events would have disturbed the upper levels of ground, and therefore any archaeology.

Aboriginal archaeology would have also been shallow across site 3. The 1978 aerial (Figure 3.5) shows that the lot adjacent to Hills Showground Precinct East, across Showground Road, contained natural sands (visible in white). The continuous disturbance most likely removed the sands containing occupation material. Moreover, if artefacts were disturbed and brought to the surface during landscaping events, the slope of the land would have caused them to be washed away over time.



**Figure 6.10** Grassed strip at front of Council Administration Building (adjacent to Showground Road). (Source: GML 2019)



**Figure 6.11** Brick retaining walls. (Source: GML 2019)

## 6.5 Summary of Aboriginal Archaeological Potential

This report has reviewed relevant archaeological and geotechnical literature, excavations and surveys performed over the past 10 years within the vicinity and in parts of the study area, as well as the present physical state of the study area. The study indicates that there is nil to low potential for archaeology within the development lots.

- Residual basal clay and sandstone bedrock has been shown to be shallow, and therefore Aboriginal deposits are likely to be shallow.
- Boreholes and excavations to the south of the site have shown that no natural soils were encountered. Only fills, contaminated with modern material, were identified sitting directly above sterile basal clay or bedrock.
- The site has undergone heavy landscaping. As a result of deep excavation for the construction of a carpark, Hills Showground Precinct West is unlikely to contain any natural soil. Regarding Doran Drive Precinct, landscaping due to the construction of former sports fields, and the removal of the top layers of earth as a result of moving fill in the area, will have removed shallow archaeological deposits. Finally, Hills Showground Precinct East has also been heavily landscaped for the sports fields and later Council Administration Building.

- No intact natural vegetation exists. There is, therefore, no potential for any artefacts to exist on the ground surface.
- PAD 3 (AHIMS No. 45-5-0132) is the only area with a moderate potential to contain Aboriginal archaeology. However, the boundary of the PAD is outside the study area.

## 6.6 Statement of Aboriginal Archaeological Potential

This assessment has found there is nil to low Aboriginal archaeological potential within the study area (Figure 6.12). This includes Aboriginal objects, places or features (including biological diversity) of cultural values within the landscape. This is due to the extensive cut and fill actions that have occurred across the site, removing any traces of Aboriginal potential that would have previously occurred in the shallow topsoil deposits of the area.



**Figure 6.12** Potential for Aboriginal archaeology to occur within the subject site. (Source: NSW Land and Property Information with GML additions)

## 6.7 Impact Assessment

The site has been assessed as having nil to low potential for Aboriginal archaeological sites or places. Therefore, the proposed works are unlikely to impact upon Aboriginal archaeological remains or heritage. GML advises that no further mitigation would be required. In addition, GML advises that an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHAR) is not required at this time.

## 6.8 Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Mitchell, P 2018, *Rocks and Dirt: Geology, Geomorphology, and Soils for Ozzie Archaeologists*, p 23.

- <sup>2</sup> Coffey Geotechnics, North West Rail Link Geotechnical Interpretive Report, report prepared for Transport for New South Wales, July 2012, p 15.
- <sup>3</sup> GML Heritage, Showground Station Precinct: Aboriginal Heritage Assessment, report prepared for Department of Planning and Environment, August 2015, p 7.
- <sup>4</sup> GML Heritage, Showground Station Precinct: Aboriginal Heritage Assessment, report prepared for Department of Planning and Environment, August 2015, p 8.
- <sup>5</sup> GML Heritage, Showground Station Precinct: Aboriginal Heritage Assessment, report prepared for Department of Planning and Environment, August 2015, p 7.
- <sup>6</sup> Chapman, G et al. 1989, *Soil Landscapes of the Sydney 1:100 000 Sheet*, Soil Conservation Service of NSW, Sydney.
- <sup>7</sup> Jo McDonald Cultural Heritage Management, Archaeological Assessment of Indigenous Heritage for the North West Rail Link, report prepared for GHD on behalf of Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation, October 2006, p 23.
- <sup>8</sup> Jo McDonald Cultural Heritage Management, Archaeological Assessment of Indigenous Heritage for the North West Rail Link, report prepared for GHD on behalf of Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation, October 2006. Appendix 2.
- <sup>9</sup> Jo McDonald Cultural Heritage Management, Archaeological Assessment of Indigenous Heritage for the North West Rail Link, report prepared for GHD on behalf of Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation, October 2006.
- <sup>10</sup> This includes two destroyed and one partially destroyed artefact(s) site.
- <sup>11</sup> This includes one destroyed artefact(s) and PAD.
- <sup>12</sup> Jo McDonald Cultural Heritage Management, Archaeological Assessment of Indigenous Heritage for the North West Rail Link, report prepared for GHD on behalf of Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation, October 2006.
- <sup>13</sup> RPS, Archaeological Excavations at the Proposed Showground Station, North West Rail Link (NWRL): Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Report, report prepared for Baulderstone on behalf of transport for NSW, October 2013.
- <sup>14</sup> Godden Mackay Logan & Jo McDonald CHM, North West Rail Link: EIS 1 Major Civil Construction Works Indigenous Heritage, report prepared for NWRL Planning Approvals Team, March 2012.
- <sup>15</sup> GML Heritage, NWRL PAD 3: Aboriginal archaeological research design, draft report, report prepared for Transport for NSW, November 2012.
- <sup>16</sup> RPS, Archaeological Excavations at the Proposed Showground Station, North West Rail Link (NWRL): Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Report, report prepared for Baulderstone on behalf of transport for NSW, October 2013.
- <sup>17</sup> Godden Mackay Logan & Jo McDonald CHM, North West Rail Link: EIS 1 Major Civil Construction Works Indigenous Heritage, report prepared for NWRL Planning Approvals Team, March 2012.
- <sup>18</sup> Godden Mackay Logan & Jo McDonald CHM, North West Rail Link: EIS 1 Major Civil Construction Works Indigenous Heritage, report prepared for NWRL Planning Approvals Team, March 2012, p 104.
- <sup>19</sup> GML Heritage, Showground Station Precinct: Aboriginal Heritage Assessment, report prepared for Department of Planning and Environment, August 2015.
- <sup>20</sup> Coffey Geotechnics, North West Metro Contract 136: Geotechnical Data Report, report prepared for North West Metro Project Team on behalf of Transport and Infrastructure Development Corporation, February 2009.
- <sup>21</sup> Precise location unclear.
- <sup>22</sup> Coffey Geotechnics, North West Metro Contract 136: Geotechnical Data Report, report prepared for North West Metro Project Team on behalf of Transport and Infrastructure Development Corporation, February 2009.
- <sup>23</sup> EMM, Archaeological assessment and research design: Showground Station, North West Rail Link, report prepared for Baulderstone, July 2013; EMM, Sydney Metro Northwest, Showground Station: Archaeological test excavation report 1890s house site, report prepared for Transport for NSW, February 2016.
- <sup>24</sup> Report on UST Validation, report prepared for Douglas Partners prepared for CPB John Holland Dragados Joint Venture, May 2016.
- <sup>25</sup> Report on UST Validation, report prepared for Douglas Partners prepared for CPB John Holland Dragados Joint Venture, May 2016. Appendix C.
- <sup>26</sup> Report on UST Validation, report prepared for Douglas Partners prepared for CPB John Holland Dragados Joint Venture, May 2016, p 4.



## 7.0 Historical Archaeological Potential and Significance

---

### 7.1 Overview

This section discusses the site's potential to contain archaeological resources. This assessment is based on consideration of the current site conditions and examination of historical information related to the development and occupation of the site, including evidence of demolition and construction activities that may have disturbed archaeological remains associated with former site features and activities, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal.

The term 'archaeological potential' is defined as the likelihood that a site may contain physical evidence related to an earlier phase of occupation, activity or development. This term is differentiated from 'archaeological significance' and 'archaeological research potential', which are more subjective statements on the value of the archaeological resource in terms of levels of significance, and discussed in more detail in Section 7.3 of this report.

### 7.2 Assessment of Historical Archaeological Potential

#### 7.2.1 Archaeology of the Neighbourhood

The following archaeological assessments were undertaken on or near the Site.

*Sydney Metro Northwest Showground Station—Archaeological Test Excavation Report 1890s House Site—EMM, 2016<sup>1</sup>*

In 2016, EMM Consulting Pty Limited (EMM) was commissioned by Transport for New South Wales to perform an archaeological investigation of the Showground Station construction site. The area of works falls partially within the boundary of the Doran Drive Precinct.

EMM prepared an archaeological assessment of the area in 2013 (see below). The investigation of historical resources identified a 1920s structure. Consequently, in 2016, EMM proposed a program of test excavations to determine the level of archaeological presentation of the building, searching for structural remnants of occupational surfaces.

Archaeologists opened two areas over two days of excavation (Figure 7.5). The first, 5m by 10m, was located approximately 2m east of Doran Drive. It intended to search for evidence of a house structure and associated sheds or other structures. The second, 1m by 5m, was located approximately 3m east of the first. It intended to identify further evidence of a house structure.

The excavations did not yield any firm evidence of the structures, such as footings, architectural fragments or occupation deposits. Two remnants of postholes running in a north–south alignment were uncovered in the first open area. These were interpreted as recent and non-significant.

Moreover, the excavations demonstrated that this area of the site was disturbed, and early habitation was likely destroyed by re-use of the land as government grounds and farmland. Evidence of these periods have, too, been lost. Finally, EMM reported that the natural soil horizon had been truncated with a fill and recent stockpile mixed with modern material, implying that historical archaeology will be lost.

*NWRL Showground Station—Historic Excavations—EMM, 2013<sup>2</sup>*

This report is the pre-text to the 2019 assessment and test excavation performed by EMM (see above). It provides a detailed outline of the historical period of occupation in the Castle Hill Showground area. The study, as above, focuses across the same area (to the south of the oval) as the present construction works study area. Consequently, its findings are highly relevant. In this report, EMM identifies the 1920s structures which its staff later searched for via a test excavation program.

*NWRL Showground Precinct—Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment—GML, 2015<sup>3</sup>*

GML assessed the historical archaeological potential of the Hills Showground, a much wider study area than that being developed in this proposed works. This report was issued in conjunction with an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment Report (see Section 7.0). It includes a comprehensive compilation of information about the different stages of historical land use in the study area and wider area. The analysis comprises references to:

- the government grounds (1799–1815);
- original land grants (1802–1831);
- orchard/market gardens and the Castle Hill Showground (1880s–1920s);
- second phase of small farm development (1920s–1960s); and
- residential and commercial subdivisions (1970s–present).

For each of these five phases, an assessment of archaeological potential is established. This includes potential remains, likely integrity, and subsequent evaluation of archaeological potential. Overall, GML determined that the broader Showground Station Precinct contained generally low to moderate potential for intact archaeological remains. The earliest phases, those until the 1830s, were designated nil–low potential.

There are a number of reasons for these conclusions. The predominant reasoning is that archaeological evidence would likely be removed/disturbed by subsequent activities. In addition, many of the structures relating to the orchard/market gardens, such as animal enclosures and shelters, were light and did not rest on substantial footings. The Castle Hills Showground and early road precincts potentially preserved archaeological remains.

*NWRL EIS 1—Major Civil Construction Works—European Heritage Report—GML, 2012<sup>4</sup>*

GML identified two houses located off and to the north of Carrington Road, which fall within the study area, namely, Doran Drive Precinct and Hills Showground Precinct East. They can be dated to pre-1920s with the use of aerials. They fall within Lots 37 and 39 of the 1898 Suttor's Estate Subdivision.

GML concluded that the level of disturbance required for construction of the depot and showground buildings and infrastructure would have left very little to none of the above-ground building remains. Instead, the potential archaeological remains related to the early pre-1920s buildings that are likely to have survived would include many subsurface elements such as services, water retaining structures (wells, cisterns), privies and possibly remnant posts and/or postholes and artefacts retained within refuse dumps and pits. Although the extent and nature of the extant showground structures would have the potential to destroy most evidence of the earlier site occupations, concrete slabs covering the ground

may have preserved any occupation layer below them. The potential of subsurface archaeological remains was assessed as low to medium.

It should be noted that EMM disagreed with this assessment of the archaeological potential, believing that the construction of the Baulkham Hills Shire Council buildings (the Hills Entertainment Centre and Hills Shire Council Works Depot) would have levelled and heavily disturbed the sites.<sup>5</sup> Excavations undertaken by EMM attempted to locate two structures in Lot 37, but only found two postholes that it concluded were more recent.<sup>6</sup>

*NWRL Epping to Rouse Hill—Heritage Review—Casey & Lowe, 2006<sup>7</sup>*

During preliminary stages of the NWRL project, Casey & Lowe prepared a Heritage Review report as part of the Environmental Assessment for the Concept Plan application in 2006. The report represents a preliminary study that identifies potential heritage items and historical archaeological sites. The report, however, does not include detailed assessment of potential items or sites.

*Castle Hill Archaeological Report—Heritage Council Research Study—Judy Birmingham (ed), 1981<sup>8</sup>*

This publication focuses more locally on the area which became Castle Hill Heritage Park, located farther east than the Showground Precinct. Despite this, the book comprises a useful summary of Castle Hill Government Farm (1801–1811). It is a useful example of comparative archaeological remains related to historical farms found in the same region and at the same time as those in the Showground Precinct. The archaeological report includes information relating to structure types, wells, and fences. It also describes the infrastructure (roads and bridges) and vegetation of the farm, which are likely to be similar to those found in and around the Site. In summary, the information presented assists in developing a more complete picture of the Castle Hill area.

## **7.2.2 Phases of Site Development**

Section 3 provides a full history of the study area. The following discussion focuses on the potential subsurface archaeological remains such as structural elements, occupational deposits, yards and paths in relation to the historic phases of development within the Site.

The following five main phases of historical development have been identified:

- Phase 1: Government Grounds (1799–1819);
- Phase 2: Original Land Grants (1819–1830s);
- Phase 3: Orchards/Market Gardens and the Castle Hill Showground (1830s–1898);
- Phase 4: Second Phase of Small Farm Development (1898–1960s);
- Phase 5: The Council Takes Over (1960s–2013); and
- Phase 6: The Metro and Beyond (2013–Present).

### **Phase 1: Government Grounds (1799–1819)**

An area of 34,539 acres (14,000 hectares) covering much of the later parish of Castle Hill was set aside for government purposes by Governor King in 1803. Governor Phillip, in his travels through the area in 1791, had intended this area to be a stock farm. An extensive common of 5,830 acres was also set aside along the track to Castle Hill which led up to the government farm (now part of Old Northern Road). King



had established this farm in 1801 as part of a plan to revitalise public farming and provide food for the colony. It is likely that the Site was cleared and used for cattle grazing and crop growing during this phase. Access to the area was also provided by Windsor Road, laid out from 1794.

Subsequent development is likely to have significantly disturbed or totally removed most of the material evidence associated with this phase of development.

### **Phase 2: Original Land Grants (1819–1830s)**

The first land grants in Castle Hill occurred in this period. The current study area includes one of the earliest grants (Portion 126) of 100 acres was granted to Michael Hancy on 13 September 1819. The 1896 Parish Map shows the current study area within Hancy's grant (Figure 3.1). Although the plan does not indicate any structures it is possible that some structures existed on some portions at this early period of the subdivision. These structures would most likely have been of timber construction, and therefore ephemeral in nature.

Subsequent development of the area is likely to have significantly disturbed or removed most material evidence associated with this phase of development.

### **Phase 3: Orchards, Market Gardens and the Castle Hill Showground (1830s–1898)**

This period of development is characterised by intensification and expansion and included the establishment of the 338-acre Suttor Estate following Suttor's purchase of three original grants, including the site (Portions 55, 125 and 126), construction of Victoria Road and Carrington Road and further subdivisions. By the 1890s the Castle Hill District boasted splendid orchards, model farms and numerous houses.<sup>9</sup> The 1898 Suttor Estate Subdivision advertisement for the sale of orchard and residential blocks promotes the value of the land as 'the best spot for citrus fruits' and 'rich orchard land'. Citrus growing continued into the early part of the twentieth century and for many years, most of Sydney's citrus products were grown in the Hills District. A rail link from Parramatta to Baulkham Hills was established in 1902.

The Castle Hill Show developed in the 1880s from earlier sports and ploughing contests. It is directly north of the study area and opened on its present site beside Showground Road in 1891 on land granted to the show society for the site of a permanent showground (Figure 3.1). It was furnished with amenities such as a timber pavilion, stables and tracks. Fencing and tree plantings soon followed. Permanent pavilions began to be built at the showground from 1925, with the opening of the Taylor Pavilion. During World War II the showground was occupied by the Victorian Ambulance Brigade. From the 1940s the Castle Hill Show had the reputation of being second only to the Royal Easter Show.

Subsequent development of the site is likely to have significantly disturbed or removed most material evidence associated with this phase of development.

### **Phase 4: Second Phase of Small Farm Development (1898–1960s)**

Further subdivision occurred with the auction of Suttor's Estate in 1898 (Figure 3.2). The study area covered Lots 35–40 in the estate. The 1930s aerial shows that much of the site had been cleared for agriculture with land parcels containing neatly planted fruit trees and those that have been cleared for farming (Figure 3.3). The majority of the structures showed on the 1930s generally correspond to those captured on the latter, 1956 aerial (Figure 3.4). Progressive land clearing is also evident between 1930 and 1956.

Two sites were identified as of interest within the Hills Showground East boundary. The first area of interest is Lot 40, of the 1898 Suttor's Estate Subdivision. It includes a series of buildings, accessible from Showground Road, in the northeast quadrant of the site. They can be identified on the 1930 and 1956 aerials (Figures 3.3–3.4). The property was likely a farm, and there appears to be some orchards in the estate in 1930. The second area is located within Lot 37. It is located in the western segment of Hills Showground East, to the north and off Carrington Road. The property included both a series of buildings and orchards in the 1930s. The farmland is located where the sports fields existed during the 1970s and 1980s. EMM undertook archaeological investigations in 2013 where they tested for two of the buildings in Lot 37 (Section 7.2.1). As described above, they concluded that no archaeological remains existed within their test area.

The potential archaeological evidence associated with the farms and roadways would have been significantly impacted by the later twentieth-century development.

### **Phase 5: The Council Takes Over (1971–2013)**

Baulkham Hills Shire Council (now the Hills Shire Council) bought the site in 1971 and redeveloped it to include the council work depot and playing fields (Figure 3.5). The playing fields were demolished in 1982 for the construction of the Council Administrative Building. The Hills Entertainment Centre was also constructed in the early 1990s.

This phase of development included extensive land modification and would have disturbed or removed potential archaeological remains from earlier phases.

### **Phase 6: The Metro and Beyond (2013–Present)**

In 2013, the Hills Entertainment Centre was demolished to make way for the Showground Station of the North West Rail Link—now Sydney Metro Northwest. At the same time the council vacated the Administrative Building after it was resumed by Sydney Metro, later being used as the office of the North West Rail Link team (Sydney Metro North West).<sup>10</sup> This was followed by the demolition of the council works depot to the west in 2016, over which a carpark was built for commuters.

This phase of development included extensive excavation over the southern section of the study area. Archaeological reports and investigations during this phase did not identify any historical archaeological remains.

## **7.2.3 Site Formation Processes**

Historical records indicate that the development of the site was slow during most of the nineteenth century. The development intensified from the last two decades of the nineteenth century, and was mainly driven by subdivision for orcharding, which started to decline in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

The major ground disturbance was caused by the red brick development during the 1960s and 1970s, which also marks the beginning of rapid urbanisation and significant levels of demolition and earth moving activities. These works would have resulted in the removal of or significant levels of disturbance to the majority of archaeological features and deposits associated with the earlier subdivision periods and mixed agriculture, dominated by orcharding. Extensive excavations for associated infrastructure (roads and underground services) and individual properties' swimming pools are likely to have caused major impacts to the potential archaeological resource in the residential area.

The investigation of relevant location literature (Section 7.2.1) and historical development in the vicinity of the site (Section 7.2.2) has provided a comprehensive understanding of the historical and modern

uses of the site. An understanding of the present state of the site (comprising Phases 5 and 6) is essential for assessing the potential for historical archaeology. It demonstrates nil to low potential across all three sites.

### **Hills Showground Precinct West**

Hills Showground Precinct West (Figures 6.6–6.7) has been heavily landscaped during the most recent series of construction. The two areas of site 1 exist on steep slopes that have been heavily excavated. The hills slant downward to the lowest level of the adjacent carpark. The bottom level of the carpark has been built at least one to two levels below the surface ground level. Historical archaeology, such as evidence of agriculture or ephemeral buildings such as the row of structures seen in the 1956 aerial (Figure 3.4), would also be completely removed with these construction works.

### **Doran Drive Precinct**

Doran Drive Precinct (Figure 6.8–6.9) was previously designated by GML as containing nil to low potential for historical archaeology.<sup>11</sup> The area now comprises a large area of deposited fill, built up by at least 1.5m (Figure 4.4). The fill located in this area is continuously added and removed. Any shallow historical deposits, especially those relating to agricultural activities, are highly likely to have been removed.

### **Hills Showground Precinct East**

The majority of the Hills Showground Precinct East has been disturbed by the Council Administration Building and surrounding carparks (Section 8).

Active landscaping has clearly been undertaken during a number of phases. Firstly, the 1978 aerial (Figure 3.5) shows disturbance to the area, represented by a crisscross pattern through the earth. The adjacent sports fields also required landscaping to level the ground (Figure 3.5). Secondly, small brick retaining walls currently exist on the site (Figures 6.10–6.11), showing the deposition of fills behind the walls, or removal of soil in front of them. The structures relate to the construction of the Council Administration Building, one of them once brandishing the nameplate of the Hills Shire Council. These events would have disturbed the upper levels of ground, and therefore archaeology.

The two early properties, in Lots 36 and 40 (Section 7.2.2, Phase 5), are not likely to have survived this landscaping. Lot 37 is presently beneath part of the carpark surrounding the Council Administration Building (Figure 7.1). The structures of Lot 40 fall within the grassed strip along Showground Road (Figure 7.2). Due to the likely shallowness of the archaeological deposits, delicate nature of the site type, and the disturbance in the area over time, there is nil to low potential for archaeological remains.



**Figure 7.1** Approximate location of 1920s farm buildings along Carrington Road. (Source: GML 2019)



**Figure 7.2** Northern extent of grassed area at the front of the Council Administration Building. Potential location of early farm structures. (Source: GML 2019)

### 7.2.4 Summary of Historical Archaeological Potential

The development history of the study area is characterised by the late nineteenth and early twentieth-century development of individual small farms used for fruit growing and other related agricultural activities. The expansion of the larger scale development in the second half of the twentieth century required that many, if not all, of the previous farmhouses and orchards be demolished. The main disturbance of the potential archaeological resource within the study area is characterised by the excavations and levelling for the construction of the council structures with associated infrastructure that occurred in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

In summary, based on the high level of the twentieth-century development, there is limited potential for the archaeological remains from the earlier phase of the historical development to survive in situ within the site. Figure 7.3 maps the archaeological potential across the site.

Table 7.1 below outlines the potential archaeological remains of the site from all historical phases and considers the site formation processes that may have affected the survival of those relics. It assesses the potential for survival of those remains as low, moderate or high as follows:

- Low—it is unlikely that archaeological evidence associated with a historical phase or feature survives.
- Moderate—it is possible that some archaeological evidence associated with a historical phase or feature survives. If archaeological remains survive, they may have been subject to some disturbance.
- High—it is likely that archaeological evidence associated with a historical phase or feature survives intact.

**Table 7.1** Summary of Historical Archaeological Potential.

Activity	Phase/Year	Potential Remains	Integrity of Remains	Archaeological Potential
Early land clearing	Phase 1	Tree roots, charcoal deposits, artefact scatters, soil deposits, evidence of camp sites etc.	Likely to have been removed/disturbed by subsequent activities.	Nil–low



Activity	Phase/Year	Potential Remains	Integrity of Remains	Archaeological Potential
Early land grants	Phase 2	Fences (postholes and remnant timber posts).	Likely to have been removed/disturbed by subsequent activities.	Nil–low
Subdivision	Phase 3	Structural evidence of the former farmhouses and associated buildings (footings, underfloor deposits, yard surfaces); fences (postholes and remnant timber posts); light timber/makeshift outbuildings (postholes, stone or brick footings, timber base plates).	Likely to have been removed/disturbed by subsequent activities.	Low
Subdivision	Phase 3	Garden enclosures, animal enclosures and/or shelters.	Likely to have been removed/disturbed by subsequent activities; some remains may survive in the isolated areas of limited disturbance across the industrial areas of the site such as isolated pockets of less disturbed carparks, yards and beneath large warehouses that do not rest on substantial footings.	Low
Orcharding and market gardening	Phases 3 and 4	Tree bowls, garden beds, furrows and tracks of cultivated areas, palaeobotanical evidence.	Likely to have been removed/disturbed by subsequent activities. Some ephemeral remains may be preserved in the areas of limited disturbance across the industrial areas of the site, such as isolated pockets of less disturbed carparks, yards and beneath large warehouses that do not rest on substantial footings.	Low
Early roads	Phase 4	Road alignments, original road fabric including associated drains and kerbs.	Could be preserved beneath extant road surfaces.	Low

## 7.3 Historical Archaeological Significance

Archaeological significance refers to the heritage significance of known or potential archaeological remains. In NSW, archaeological remains are managed in accordance with their assessed levels of significance in line with *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'*, published by the NSW Heritage Branch (now part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet) in 2009.

This significance assessment specifically considers the historical archaeological resource of the site.

### 7.3.1 NSW Heritage Criteria

The Heritage Council of NSW established seven criteria for consideration in the assessment of heritage significance.<sup>12</sup> The potential historical archaeological resource of the current site has been assessed against these criteria and our findings are presented in Table 7.2.

**Table 7.2** Assessment of Potential Archaeological Remains within the Study Area Against the NSW Heritage Criteria.

Criteria	Response
<i>(a) an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the local area)</i>	The study area is within Castle Hill, well known for its orchards, model farms and houses in the 1890s. The potential archaeological remains from the study area could be associated with these orchards, model farms and houses and would be <b>significant at a local level</b> .
<i>(b) an item has a strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the local area)</i>	The potential archaeological remains from the study area could be associated with the pioneers of the local orchard growing industry, including George Suttor and William Mobb. Any association with the first people to receive grants in the area, ie Michael Hancey and Samuel Gilbert, would be <b>significant at a local level</b> .
<i>(c) an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area)</i>	The potential archaeological remains from the study area are <b>not likely to meet this criterion</b> .
<i>(d) an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, spiritual or cultural reasons (or the local area)</i>	There are no elements of the study area with identified associations with a particular community or cultural group in NSW. Archaeological remains within the study area are unlikely to demonstrate any associations and <b>not likely to meet this criterion</b> .
<i>(e) an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the local area)</i>	The study area has been identified as having low potential for archaeological remains associated with the early phases of the study area's development. It therefore has limited potential to yield information that would contribute to better understanding of nineteenth-century practices associated with the rural way of life, mainly because of its low potential to survive in situ or to the extent that could provide enough substrate for detailed analysis. If more substantial archaeological remains from the first two phases of historical development were to be identified, they would be regarded as highly valuable as they could provide information relevant for the history of colonial life in NSW and beyond. The research potential of archaeological remains from the residential subdivision, timber yard and factories could be considered <b>significant at a local level</b> , depending on their nature and extent.
<i>(f) an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the local area)</i>	The potential archaeological remains from the study area are <b>not likely to meet this criterion</b> .
<i>(g) 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 the local area)</i>	The potential archaeological remains from the study area are <b>not likely to meet this criterion</b> .

### 7.3.2 Statement of Archaeological Significance

The site is located in the area of government grounds selected by Governor King in 1803. While this historical association is rare and significant, it is highly unlikely that any physical evidence of this association survives due to loss of such evidence by the significant level of modern disturbance.

The site has been assessed as having nil–low potential to contain intact archaeological remains from the early nineteenth century to the early twentieth century. The research potential of this evidence would vary in accordance with its date of origin, integrity and ability to provide meaningful information about significant phases of the development of the history of the Hills District. This area was known to be developed by orchardists and has a long history of mixed agriculture, which is demonstrated through the showground that is still in existence. Archaeological remains related to the themes of agriculture and the economy would be significant at a local level.

Table 7.3 below presents the potential archaeological features anticipated within the Site boundaries, as well as their assessed levels of significance.

**Table 7.3** Potential Archaeological Features, Associated Types of Archaeological Evidence and Assessed Significance.

Phase	Potential Remains	Location	Archaeological Potential	Significance
Phase 1	Tree roots, charcoal deposits, artefact scatters, soil deposits, evidence of camp sites etc.	Entire site	Nil–low	None
Phase 2	Fences (postholes and remnant timber posts).	Entire site	Nil–low	None
Phase 3	Structural evidence of the former farmhouses and associated buildings (footings, underfloor deposits, yard surfaces); fences (postholes and remnant timber posts); light timber/makeshift outbuildings (postholes, stone or brick footings, timber base plates).	Doran Drive Precinct and Hills Showground Precinct East	Low	Local
Phase 3	Garden enclosures, animal enclosures and/or shelters.	Entire site	Low	Local
Phases 3 and 4	Tree bowls, garden beds, furrows and tracks of cultivated areas, and palaeobotanical evidence.	Entire site	Low	None
Phase 4	Road alignments, original road fabric including associated drains and kerbs.	Entire site	Low	Local

## 7.4 Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The three Development Lots have all been assessed as having nil to low potential for significant historical archaeology and ‘relics’, as defined by the Heritage Act. Therefore, the proposed works are unlikely to impact on significant historical archaeological remains or ‘relics’ and no further mitigation would be required.



**Figure 7.3** Historical archaeological potential across the study area. (Source: GML, 2019)

## 7.5 Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> EMM (2013). Archaeological assessment and research design: Showground Station, North West Rail Link, Baulderstone.  
EMM (2016). Sydney Metro Northwest, Showground Station: Archaeological test excavation report 1890s house site, Transport for NSW.
- <sup>2</sup> EMM (2013). Archaeological assessment and research design: Showground Station, North West Rail Link, Baulderstone.  
EMM (2016). Sydney Metro Northwest, Showground Station: Archaeological test excavation report 1890s house site, Transport for NSW.
- <sup>3</sup> GML Heritage (2015). Showground Station Precinct: Aboriginal Heritage Assessment, Department of Planning and Environment.
- <sup>4</sup> Godden Mackay Logan (2012). North West Rail Link: EIS 1 Major Civil Construction Works European Heritage Report, NWRL Planning Approvals Team.
- <sup>5</sup> EMM, Archaeological assessment and research design: Showground Station, North West Rail Link, report prepared for Baulderstone, July 2013, p 34.
- <sup>6</sup> EMM (2013). Archaeological assessment and research design: Showground Station, North West Rail Link, Baulderstone.  
EMM (2016). Sydney Metro Northwest, Showground Station: Archaeological test excavation report 1890s house site, Transport for NSW.
- <sup>7</sup> Lowe, C. (2006). North West Rail Link - Epping to Rouse Hill Heritage Review, GHD Pty Ltd on behalf of Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation.
- <sup>8</sup> Birmingham, J. (1981). Castle Hill: Archaeological Report, Heritage Council of NSW.
- <sup>9</sup> Jeans D, *An Historical Geography of NSW to 1901*, p 209.
- <sup>10</sup> Creative Planning Solutions 2019, 'Statement of Environmental Effects: Demolition of the former The Hills Shire Council administration building', report prepared for Landcom, p. 6.
- <sup>11</sup> GML Heritage (2015). Showground Station Precinct: Aboriginal Heritage Assessment, Department of Planning and Environment.
- <sup>12</sup> Heritage Branch Department of Planning, 2009, *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'*, State of NSW, Heritage Branch, Department of Planning, p 3.



## 8.0 Built Heritage Assessment

### 8.1 Introduction

This section gives an overview description of the heritage significance of the site at 1–5 Carrington Road, Castle Hill, and the listed heritage items in the vicinity of the site and provides an assessment of the impacts of the proposed development on those heritage items.

This impact assessment follows the *Statements of Heritage Impact* guidelines as published by the NSW Heritage Office (revised 2002) and is consistent with the relevant principles and guidelines of the *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter, 2013* (the Burra Charter).

### 8.2 Existing Buildings on the Site

The subject site was purchased by the NSW Government for the construction of the Sydney Metro Northwest and the Hills Showground Station, which began operation in May 2019. To enable the construction of the metro and station, several of the buildings on the site were demolished, including the former Hills Cultural Centre and Hills Shire Council Depot.

The site now consists of the Hills Showground Metro Station, access roads and forecourts, a four-storey commuter carpark, two metro service buildings and the former Hills Shire Administration Centre on the corner of Carrington and Showground Roads. Landcom has recently lodged a development application (DA 304/2020/LA) for the demolition of the former Administration Centre with the Hills Shire Council and the demolition does not form part of this proposal.

### 8.3 Heritage Context

The subject site is not listed as a heritage item on the SHR or within the HLEP 2012. There are no heritage items listed in the SHR located adjacent to or in the vicinity of the site.

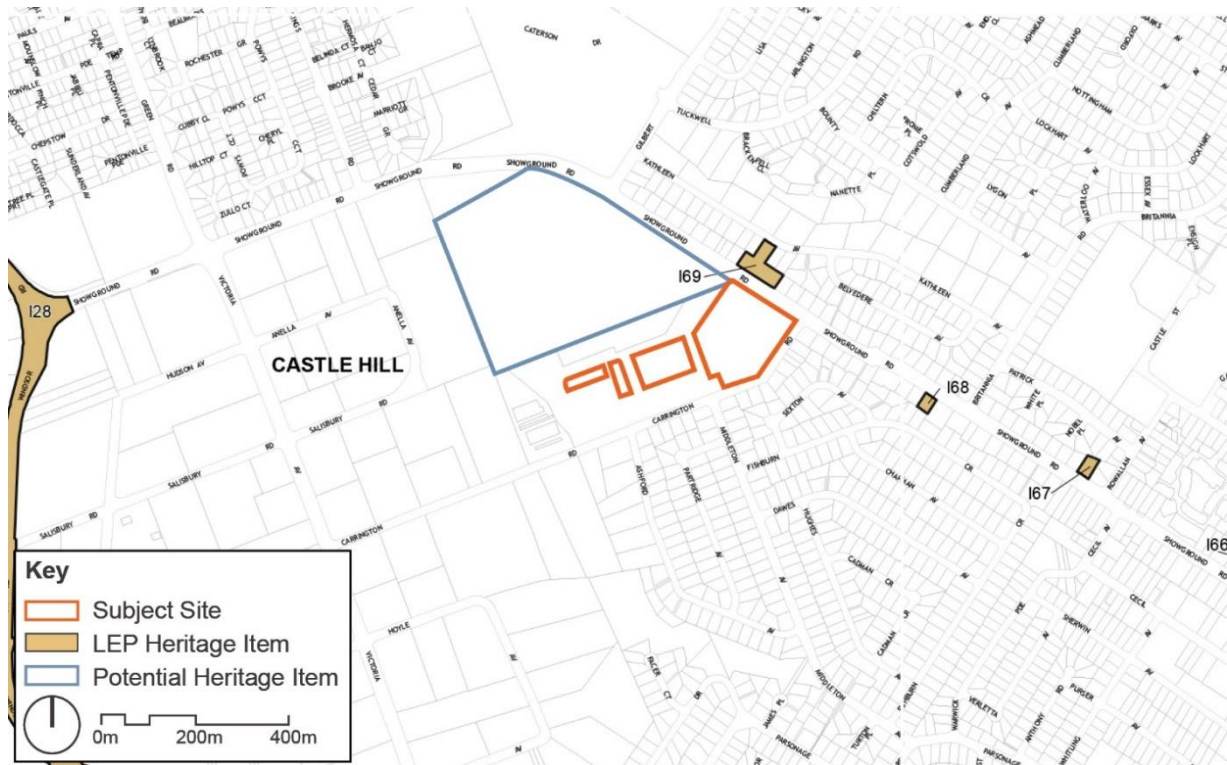
#### 8.3.1 Heritage Items in the Vicinity

Although the site is not listed as a heritage item on the SHR or within the HLEP 2012, there are a number of heritage items listed within HLEP 2012 in the vicinity as well as a heritage conservation area located near the site. Heritage items within 1km of the site are listed in the table below and on Figure 8.1.

**Table 8.1** Listed Heritage Items within the Immediate and Wider Vicinity of the Site. (Source: HLEP 2012)

Item Address	Item Name	Item Number	Significance	Distance from Site
10 Gilbert Road	Castle Hill Cemetery	I52	Local	600m north
74 Showground Road, Castle Hill	'Dogwoods'	I67	Local	650m southeast
107 Showground Road, Castle Hill	House	I68	Local	300m southeast
128–132 Showground Road, Castle Hill	House (former farm cottage)	I69	Local	Directly across Showground Road
Corner Showground Road and Carrington Road, Castle Hill	Castle Hill Showground Potential Heritage Item*	Not currently listed	Local	Adjacent

\*Castle Hill Showground is not currently listed as a heritage item; however, it was identified as a heritage item in the NWRL EIS 2012. The Hills Shire Council is currently undertaking the master planning for the showground, separate to this SSDA.



**Figure 8.1** Heritage items in the vicinity of the site. (Source: HLEP 2012 with GML overlay)

Old Windsor Road and Windsor Road Heritage Precincts are listed on the Roads and Maritime Heritage Services Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register as items of state significance.

There are no places listed on the National Trust Register in the surrounding area. There are also no places listed on the AIA Register of Significant Architecture in NSW in the precinct.

## 8.4 Heritage Impact Assessment

### 8.4.1 Summary of Proposed Works

The Concept Proposal comprises residential, retail and commercial uses and building envelopes of varying heights up to twenty storeys. The proposal also includes car parking, roads, landscaping, services and the provision of publicly accessible open space in the form of Doran Drive Plaza and a new park. An indicative yield of up to 1,900 dwellings is anticipated to be provided.

The proposed development is discussed in further detail in Section 5.0 of this report.

### 8.4.2 Assessment of Heritage Impacts


#### Assessment of Impact on Heritage Items in the Near Vicinity

The heritage items in the close vicinity of the site are:

- Item Number 68, Local Significance—House—107 Showground Road;
- Item Number 69, Local Significance—House—128–132 Showground Road; and
- Castle Hill Showground, Local Significance—Potential Heritage Item.

The impact of the proposal on these heritage items is detailed in the table below.

**Table 8.2** Impact of Proposal on Heritage Items in the Vicinity.

Item 68	House—107 Showground Road
Image	 <p data-bbox="368 972 868 1003"><b>Figure 8.2</b> 107 Showground Road. (Source: GML 2019)</p>
Significance	Local
Statement of Significance and Description	<p data-bbox="368 1084 1422 1144">The house at 107 Showground Road is a single-storey Federation style residence on the southern side of the road. The Heritage Inventory Sheet for the item provides the following brief statement of significance:</p> <p data-bbox="427 1153 1315 1218"><i>Externally intact early 20th Century rural cottage probably indicative of small rural lot subdivision around the township of Castle Hill.</i></p> <p data-bbox="368 1247 746 1279">It also provides the following description:</p> <p data-bbox="427 1285 1362 1420"><i>Asymmetrical cottage of rusticated weatherboard with hipped roof and gabled projection. Bullnose verandah on two sides. Double casement windows with small pane coloured glass, window hood and gable decoration with finial. Brick Chimney. Original timber privy to backyard. Double timber garage to west.</i></p> <p data-bbox="368 1451 1422 1482">The house at 107 Showground Road provides evidence of the relatively recent rural history of the Castle Hill area.</p>
Heritage Impact	<p data-bbox="368 1496 1385 1668">The Hills Showground Station Local Centre Precinct is located approximately 300m to the northwest of the heritage item at 107 Showground Road. Due to the distance of the subject site from the heritage item and the topography of Showground Road, the proposed development will not be directly visible from the heritage item. The proposal will not impact on the physical or visual curtilage of the heritage item. The proposal will maintain significant view lines to and from the heritage item. Accordingly, the proposal will not have an impact on the fabric, setting or significance of the heritage item.</p>



Item 69	House—128–132 Showground Road
Images	 <p data-bbox="443 925 989 954"><b>Figure 8.3</b> 128–132 Showground Road. (Source: GML 2019)</p>  <p data-bbox="443 1635 989 1664"><b>Figure 8.4</b> 128–132 Showground Road. (Source: GML 2019)</p>
Significance	Local
Statement of Significance and Description	<p data-bbox="443 1749 1406 1839">The house at 128–132 Showground Road is a single-storey Federation style residence on the southern side of the road. The Heritage Inventory Sheet for the item provides the following brief statement of significance:</p> <p data-bbox="501 1845 1284 1912"><i>Externally intact early 20th Century rural cottage probably indicative of small rural lot subdivision around the township of Castle Hill.</i></p> <p data-bbox="443 1935 823 1964">It also provides the following description:</p>




Item 69	House—128–132 Showground Road
	<p><i>Two room form cottage with skillion room to rear, new bullnose verandah to front, old posts and brackets. Beaded weatherboards to front elevation. Two French doors to front elevation, no front door. Part of orchard remains.</i></p> <p>The house and its grounds at 128–132 Showground Road provide evidence of the relatively recent rural history of the Castle Hill area.</p>
Heritage Impact	<p>The Hills Showground Station Local Centre Precinct is located directly across Showground Road from the heritage item at 128–132 Showground Road. The proposed development will be visible from the heritage item and will alter the scale and character of the item's setting. However, the item no longer retains its traditional rural setting due to the development of the surrounding area over the past decades, including the widening of Showground Road. The cottage on the site is set well back from the road and the proposed development, being located on the opposite side of the road, will not impact on its physical or visual curtilage. The proposal will maintain significant view lines to and from the heritage item. Accordingly, the proposal will not impact on the fabric, setting or significance of the heritage item.</p>

Potential Item	Castle Hill Showground
Image	 <p><b>Figure 8.5</b> Castle Hill Showground as viewed from the study area. (Source: GML 2019)</p>

Potential Item	Castle Hill Showground
	 <p data-bbox="403 920 1153 954"><b>Figure 8.6</b> Castle Hill Showground with the study area beyond. (Source: GML 2019)</p>  <p data-bbox="403 1615 1362 1671"><b>Figure 8.7</b> View from Castle Hill Showground to the study area and Hills Showground Station. (Source: GML 2019)</p>



Potential Item	Castle Hill Showground
	 <p><b>Figure 8.8</b> View from Castle Hill Showground to the study area and Hills Showground Station. (Source: GML 2019)</p>
Significance	Local
Description and statement of significance	<p>Castle Hill Showground is not currently listed as a heritage item on any heritage registers. However, it was identified as a potential heritage item in the NWRL EIS 1 European Heritage Report. Its heritage values were also identified by Mayne-Wilson &amp; Associates in a Draft Heritage and Cultural Landscape Study of Castle Hill Showground, prepared for Baulkham Hills Shire Council in April 1996.</p> <p>The NWRL EIS European Heritage Report (provides the following statement of significance for Castle Hill Showground:</p> <p><i>Castle Hill Showground has significance at the local level for its historic, rarity and representative values. The showground has been the home of the Castle Hill Show since 1890, which by the 1950s was the second largest show in Sydney region, after the Royal Agricultural Society's show at Moore Park. It provides evidence of the historical importance of agriculture to the Baulkham Hills district and is a reminder of the vital role the area once played in providing produce for Sydney.</i></p> <p><i>Castle Hill Showground is a representative example of rural showgrounds in NSW, with a large show ring and pavilions arranged around it. It is a rare example of a rural-style showground within the Sydney metropolitan area. While the shape of the show ring has changed over time, the essential layout of the showground, with the pavilions arranged around the north and western edges of the show ring, remains unchanged since at least 1930.</i></p> <p><i>The Showground is an important and much used cultural and recreational facility in The Hills Shire.</i></p> <p>The Castle Hill Showground has been the home of the annual Castle Hill Show since 1890 and is regularly used by a number of local community groups. The showground has retained its rural character which is reinforced by the vernacular nature of the majority of the sheds and pavilions located to the north and west of the large show ring. The shape and size of the fenced arena with its perimeter racetrack has been modified a number of times during the past 120 years. The existing showground site covers an extensive area and includes the fenced oval and show ring on the eastern side of Doran Drive (and to the immediate north of The Hills Centre), as well as a number of associated buildings and structures including several</p>

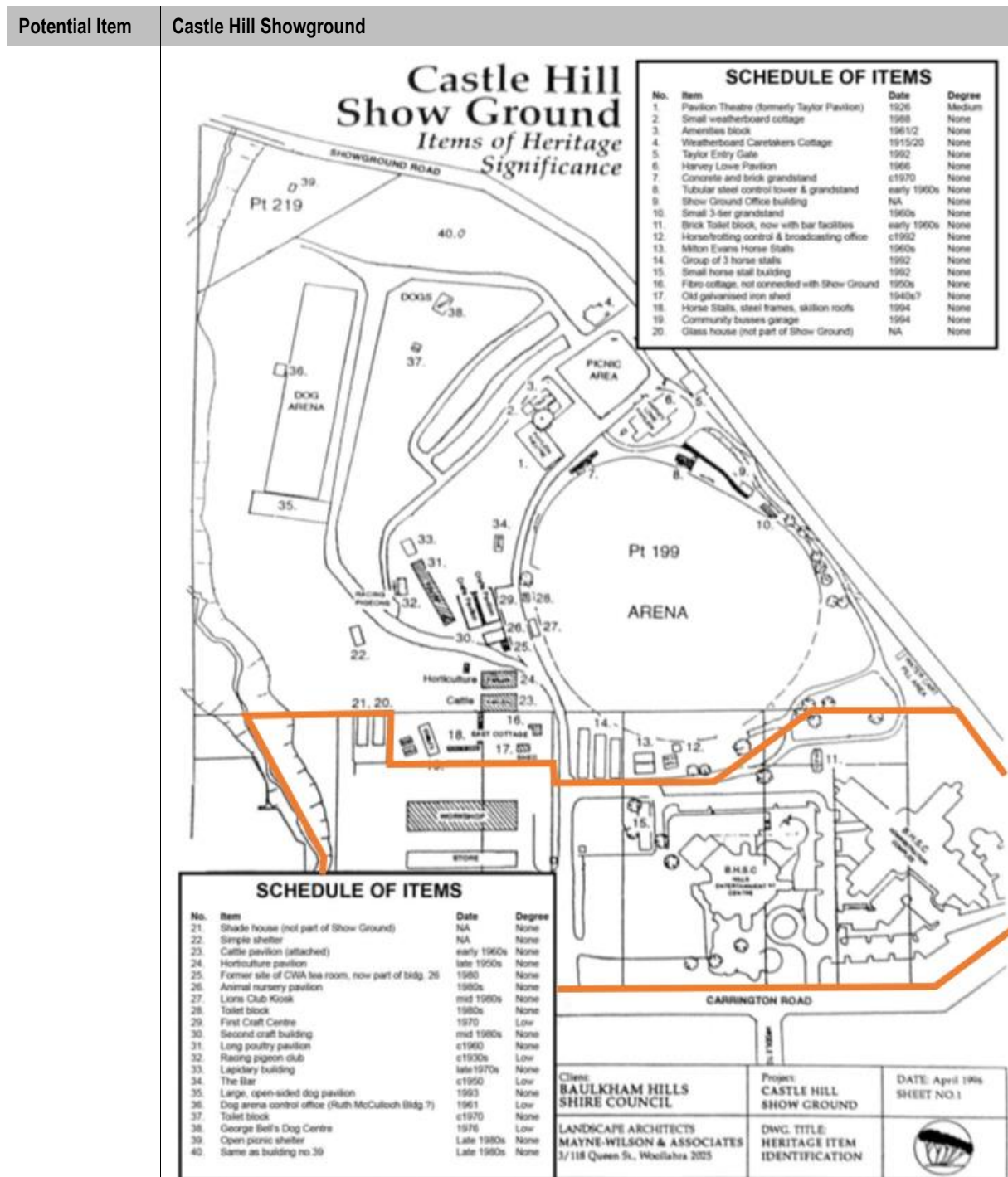
Potential Item	Castle Hill Showground
	<p>showground pavilions (the oldest, the Taylor Pavilion—home of a local theatre group since 1964—was built in 1925).</p> <p>The above-mentioned Mayne-Wilson &amp; Associates report provides a detailed history of the showground's development and an assessment of significance of the showground as a whole, as well as of individual areas and structures within it. It emphasises that the heritage significance of the showground arises from its historical and social values, associated with its ongoing use for the Castle Hill Show since 1890. The report did not assess the rarity and representative values of the showground.</p> <p>The following assessment of significance for the showground is quoted from the Mayne-Wilson report:</p> <p><i>The Show Ground has historical significance because it has been formally dedicated as a Show Ground and continuously used for that purpose since 1890. That dedicated use has been reaffirmed several times over the last century, and most of it remains Crown Land.</i></p> <p><i>The Show Ground has a high degree of social significance because of its role in providing a venue since 1890 for:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>the display of agricultural and horticultural products, skills and crafts of residents (including children) of Castle Hill and the Hills District regions;</i></li> <li><i>displays of skills in horsemanship of various kinds, and a range of sporting activities;</i></li> <li><i>a spectrum of social events, functions and activities, and the mixing of a wide cross-section of the community during showtime; and</i></li> <li><i>accommodating the Victorian Ambulance Corps and other Australian Army elements during World War II.</i></li> </ol> <p><i>The Show Ground has very little aesthetic significance, although its location on an elevated ridge, with good views out to the surrounding countryside, provides a pleasant setting and an open, spacious quality.</i></p> <p><i>The Show Ground has no technical or scientific value, and little educational value other than that which local historians might provide through collecting oral histories about the displays of agricultural products, skills, events, and showtime activities that were once demonstrated there.</i></p> <p>Figure 8.9 shows the degrees (gradings) of significance for each of the areas within the showground from the Draft Heritage and Cultural Landscape Study. An explanation of the degrees of heritage significance is set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>High: the 'core' area comprising the Show Arena and the built elements and particular use spaces surrounding it that have continuously supported Shows since the original dedication of the land in 1890;</i></li> <li><i>Some [Moderate]: the areas where Show-related facilities such as the former three small dog arenas and the horse stabling areas were located for some years, together with the access route across former Lot 38 from Carrington Road;</i></li> <li><i>Low: those parts of the Show Ground precinct which, while having been continuously part of the original Lot 199 and Pt 219, were not traditionally used for Show activities (principally the far north-western, western, south-western, southern, and south-eastern sectors);</i></li> <li><i>No significance: those areas of land that were never part of the original land grant for Show Ground purposes, and which were never used for show purposes. This includes</i></li> </ul>



Potential Item	Castle Hill Showground						
	<p><i>most of the land abutting Carrington Road that was purchased by Council from private residents between 1960 and 1971.</i></p> <p>Of the existing structures on the site, only the Taylor Pavilion (now the Pavilion Theatre) was assessed as being of moderate significance, as the only remaining pre-World War II structure at the showground. All other structures were assessed as having a significance degree (grading) of low or none. Figure 6.9 shows the degrees (gradings) of significance for each of the structures within the showground from the Mayne-Wilson &amp; Associates report.</p> <p>Works for the Sydney Metro Northwest Showground Station have involved demolition of buildings between the showground and Carrington Road, but no works within the showground itself.</p> <div><h3>Castle Hill Show Ground</h3><p>Degrees of Heritage Significance</p><table><tr><td>Client: BAULKHAM HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL</td><td>Project: CASTLE HILL SHOW GROUND</td><td>DATE: April 1996 SHEET NO. 3</td></tr><tr><td>LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS MAYNE-WILSON &amp; ASSOCIATES 3/118 Queen St., Woollahra NSW 2025</td><td>DWG. TITLE: COMPARATIVE HERITAGE VALUE</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	Client: BAULKHAM HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL	Project: CASTLE HILL SHOW GROUND	DATE: April 1996 SHEET NO. 3	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS MAYNE-WILSON & ASSOCIATES 3/118 Queen St., Woollahra NSW 2025	DWG. TITLE: COMPARATIVE HERITAGE VALUE	
Client: BAULKHAM HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL	Project: CASTLE HILL SHOW GROUND	DATE: April 1996 SHEET NO. 3					
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS MAYNE-WILSON & ASSOCIATES 3/118 Queen St., Woollahra NSW 2025	DWG. TITLE: COMPARATIVE HERITAGE VALUE						

**Figure 8.9** Degrees of heritage significance, Castle Hill Showground. The subject site lot boundary before subdivision is outlined in orange. (Source: Mayne-Wilson and Associates, Draft Heritage and Cultural Landscape Study of Castle Hill Show Ground, prepared for Baulkham Hills Shire Council, April 1996, Figure 15)

**Figure 8.9** Degrees of heritage significance, Castle Hill Showground. The subject site lot boundary before subdivision is outlined in orange. (Source: Mayne-Wilson and Associates, Draft Heritage and Cultural Landscape Study of Castle Hill Show Ground, prepared for Baulkham Hills Shire Council, April 1996, Figure 15)



**Figure 8.10** Items of heritage significance, Castle Hill Showground. The subject site lot boundary before subdivision is outlined in orange. (Source: Mayne-Wilson and Associates, Draft Heritage and Cultural Landscape Study of Castle Hill Show Ground, prepared for Baulkham Hills Shire Council, April 1996, Figure 6)

Potential Item	Castle Hill Showground
	<p>Whilst the proposed development will have an impact on the setting and visual curtilage of the showground, there is significant opportunity for the new development to generate better public access to and awareness of the site, which will facilitate its ongoing use and conservation, having a positive impact.</p> <p>The proposal will not impact on the significant fabric, structures or elements of the Castle Hill Showground.</p>

### Assessment of Impact on Heritage Items in the Wider Vicinity


There are a number of other local heritage items that are located within the wider vicinity of the development site. These heritage items will not be impacted by the proposed works due to their distance from the proposed development and the topography of the area separating the heritage items and the site, which obstructs any visual connection between the site and the heritage items.

The heritage items in the wider vicinity of the site are:


- Item Number 52, Local Significance—Castle Hill Cemetery—10 Gilbert Road; and
- Item Number 67, Local Significance—‘Dogwoods’—74 Showground Road.

An assessment of the impact of the proposal on the heritage items in the wider vicinity is provided in Table 8.3.

**Table 8.3** Impact of Proposal on Heritage Items in the Wider Vicinity.

Item 52	Castle Hill Cemetery
Image	 <p><b>Figure 8.11</b> Castle Hill Cemetery. (Source: The Hills Shire Council)</p>
Significance	Local
Description	Castle Hill Cemetery was dedicated in 1881 and was originally part of the 1801 Castle Hill Government Farm. The first recorded burial in the cemetery was in 1914; however, this was outside of the current fence boundary as the cemetery was not fenced at the time. The Hills Shire Council received ownership of the cemetery after the <i>Local Government Act 1967</i> passed through state parliament.
Heritage Impact	The Hills Showground Station Precinct is located approximately 600m to the southeast of the Castle Hill Cemetery. Due to the distance of the site from the cemetery and the topography of the area, the proposed development will not be visible from the heritage item. The proposal will not impact on the



Item 52	Castle Hill Cemetery
	physical or visual curtilage of the Castle Hill Cemetery. Accordingly, it will not have an impact on the fabric, setting or significance of the heritage item.
Item 67	Dogwoods—74 Showground Road
Image	 <p><b>Figure 8.12</b> 74 Showground Road. (Source: GML 2019)</p>
Significance	Local
Statement of Significance and Description	<p>Dogwoods is a Federation style single-storey residence on the northern side of Showground Road, in the eastern area of the precinct. The Heritage Inventory Sheet for the item provides the following brief statement of significance:</p> <p><i>Of historical significance for its association with and importance in the life of Patrick White.</i></p> <p>It also provides the following description:</p> <p><i>A symmetrical planned house, constructed of masonry covered with rough cast render. Unglazed terra cotta tiled roof. It has bay windows onto a federation verandah. The hipped roof has a pair of gables which crown the bay windows, facing the street. Projecting gable to east of brick (recently sandblasted). Two rendered brick chimneys with terra cotta pots. The house, stylistically, is unusual for the area.</i></p> <p>The inventory sheet provides some historical information about the site, primarily in relation to the years it was occupied by Patrick White, one of Australia's most well-known authors. He lived at Dogwoods from 1948 to 1967 and wrote the novels <i>The Tree of Man</i> and <i>Voss</i> while there. The inventory sheet claims that his partner believed Dogwoods and its farm (now gone) was an 'important stimulant to his creativity.'</p>
Heritage Impact	The Hill Showground Station Precinct is located approximately 650m to the northwest of the heritage item at 74 Showground Road. Due to the distance of the site from the heritage item and the topography of Showground Road, the proposed development will not be visible from the heritage item. The proposal will not impact on the physical or visual curtilage of the heritage item. Accordingly, it will not have an impact on the fabric, setting or significance of the heritage item.



### 8.4.3 Statement of Potential Heritage Impact—Built Heritage

The Hills Showground Station Precinct is located within the vicinity of a number of heritage items and is directly adjacent to the Castle Hill Showground, which has been identified as having cultural significance. The Concept Proposal is not considered to have an adverse impact on the heritage items in the vicinity of the site.

The Hills Showground Station Precinct is located directly adjacent to the Castle Hill Showground. The proposed development will be visible from the showground and will alter the scale and character of its setting. However, the showground no longer retains its traditional rural setting due to the development of the surrounding area over the past decades, including the construction of the Hills Showground Metro Station, and associated carpark and infrastructure. The proposal will not impact on the significant fabric, structures or elements of the Castle Hill Showground. Whilst the proposed development will have an impact on the setting and visual curtilage of the showground, it will also generate better public access to and awareness of the site that will facilitate its ongoing use and conservation, having a positive impact. It is recommended that, in future stages of the design, the scale of the buildings step down towards the showground site in order to mitigate the impact on its setting and provide a more appropriate transition of scale.

The site is located directly across Showground Road from the heritage item at 128–132 Showground Road. The proposed development will be visible from the heritage item and will alter the scale and character of the item's setting. However, the item no longer retains its traditional rural setting due to the development of the surrounding area over the past decades, including the widening of Showground Road. The cottage on the site is set well back from the road and the proposed development, being located on the opposite side of the road, will not impact on its physical or visual curtilage. The proposal will not impact on the fabric, setting or significance of the heritage item.

The site is located approximately 300m to the northwest of the heritage item at 107 Showground Road. Due to the distance of the subject site from the heritage item and the topography of Showground Road, the proposed development will not be visible from the heritage item. The proposal will not impact on the physical or visual curtilage of the heritage item. Accordingly, it will not have an impact on the fabric, setting or significance of the heritage item.

The proposal is not considered to have an adverse impact on the significance of those heritage items located in the wider vicinity of the subject site, due to the separation of the heritage items in the wider vicinity from the site. The proposed development will not impact on the significance or setting of those items in the wider vicinity, or their setting or curtilage.

## 9.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

---

### 9.1 Conclusions

#### 9.1.1 Findings of the Aboriginal Due Diligence Process

- The site inspection of the study area did not encounter artefacts or other evidence of Aboriginal archaeological sites.
- The environmental context of the land surrounding the study area, predictive models established to ascertain the likelihood of Aboriginal archaeological sites, and levels of previous land disturbance indicate that it is unlikely that Aboriginal objects will be located within the study area.
- The proposed development is unlikely to impact on Aboriginal archaeological objects.
- This assessment satisfies condition 12 of the SEARs and no further assessments are required. The proponent could proceed with caution.

#### 9.1.2 Historical Archaeology

- The site has been assessed as having nil–low potential for locally significant historical archaeological remains or ‘relics’, as defined by the Heritage Act, associated with the subdivision, houses, timber yard and factories.
- The proposed development is unlikely to impact significant historical archaeological remains and relics.

#### 9.1.3 Built Heritage

- The Hills Showground Station Precinct is located within the vicinity of a number of heritage items and is directly adjacent to the Castle Hill Showground, which has been identified as having cultural significance. The Concept Proposal is not considered to have an adverse impact on the heritage items in the vicinity of the site.
- The site is located directly across Showground Road from the heritage item at 128–132 Showground Road. The rural setting of the heritage item has been significantly altered over recent decades. The proposal will not impact on the fabric, setting or significance of the heritage item.
- The site is located approximately 300m to the northwest of the heritage item at 107 Showground Road. The proposal will not impact on the physical or visual curtilage of the heritage item. Accordingly, it will not have an impact on the fabric, setting or significance of the heritage item.
- The site is located directly adjacent to the Castle Hill Showground. The proposed development will be visible from the showground and will alter the scale and character of its setting. However, the showground no longer retains its traditional rural setting due to the development of the surrounding area over the past decades. The proposal will not impact on the significant fabric, structures or elements of the Castle Hill Showground. Whilst the proposed development will have an impact on the setting and visual curtilage of the Showground, it will also generate better public access to and awareness of the site that will facilitate its ongoing use and conservation, having a positive impact.

- The proposal is not considered to have an adverse impact on the significance of those heritage items located in the wider vicinity of the site, due to the separation of the heritage items in the wider vicinity from the site. The proposed development will not impact on the significance or setting of those items in the wider vicinity, or their setting or curtilage.

## **9.2 Recommendations**

### **9.2.1 Aboriginal Archaeology**

There is nil–low potential for Aboriginal objects or sites within the study area. If Aboriginal sites and/or objects are suspected and/or identified during the process of works, the following Aboriginal unexpected finds protocol should be enacted:

- Stop-work order—all works should cease immediately in the area surrounding the suspected objects. Any identified Aboriginal object(s) should be left in situ and not disturbed in accordance with the requirements of Section 89A of the NPW Act. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment should be notified immediately; an archaeologist experienced in the identification of Aboriginal cultural material should inspect the suspected Aboriginal objects to make a positive identification.
- If the suspected items are not Aboriginal in origin or manufacture (as defined under the NPW Act), the location and items should be recorded and works may continue.
- If the objects are confirmed to be Aboriginal objects, the site should be registered on the AHIMS administered by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.
- If the suspected items are Aboriginal objects, an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) would be required before works could continue in the area of the identified objects, as set out in the SEARs. The extent of any works exclusion zone would need to be determined through discussion with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and Aboriginal community representatives.
- In the unlikely event that human remains were to be discovered at any time during the works, works must cease immediately in the surrounding area. The findings would need to be reported immediately to the New South Wales Coroner's Office and/or the New South Wales Police.

### **9.2.2 Historical Archaeology**

The study area has nil–low potential for significant historical archaeological remains and is unlikely to contain relics. Implementation of an unexpected finds procedure is recommended:

- If potential historical archaeological remains are identified during ground disturbance, works in the area must cease until they can be assessed by a qualified historical archaeologist.
- If the suspected items are assessed as not being significant historical archaeological remains or relics, works may continue.
- If the suspected items are found to be significant historical archaeological remains or relics, the NSW Heritage Division should be notified under Section 146 of the Heritage Act. Further approvals may be required before works could recommence.

### 9.2.3 Built Heritage

- It is recommended that the future detailed design stages of the buildings ensure that they respond to the interface with the Showground site and provide an appropriate transition of scale, through built form articulation and streetscape interface, in order to mitigate the impact on its setting.
- A heritage specialist should provide design advice for the future stages of the development on the sites to ensure that there are no significant changes made to the design that would impact on the heritage items in the vicinity of the cultural values of the Castle Hill Showground. A heritage impact assessment will need to be undertaken for future stages of the development.
- The Interpretation Plan included at Appendix A of this report should be adopted and implemented as part of the Concept Approval.





## 10.0 Appendices

---

### Appendix A

Hills Showground Station Precinct—Interpretation Strategy







# Hills Showground Station Precinct Interpretation Strategy

Landcom

October 2019

SYDNEY OFFICE  
Level 6 372 Elizabeth Street  
Surry Hills NSW Australia 2010  
T +61 2 9319 4811

CANBERRA OFFICE  
2A Mugga Way  
Red Hill ACT Australia 2603  
T +61 2 6273 7540

MELBOURNE OFFICE  
22 Merri Street  
Brunswick VIC 3056  
T +61 3 9380 6933

[www.gml.com.au](http://www.gml.com.au)  
[@gmlheritage](https://twitter.com/gmlheritage)  
GML Heritage Pty Ltd  
ABN 60 001 179 362



# Report Register

The following report register documents the development and issue of the report entitled Hills Showground Station Precinct— Interpretation Strategy, undertaken by GML Heritage Pty Ltd in accordance with its quality management system.

Job No.	Issue No.	Notes/Description	Issue Date
19-0328	1	Draft Report	27 September 2019
19-0328	2	Draft Report	24 October 2019

## Quality Assurance

GML Heritage Pty Ltd operates under a quality management system which has been certified as complying with the Australian/New Zealand Standard for quality management systems AS/NZS ISO 9001:2016.

## Copyright

Historical sources and reference material used in the preparation of this report are acknowledged and referenced at the end of each section and/or in figure captions. Reasonable effort has been made to identify, contact, acknowledge and obtain permission to use material from the relevant copyright owners.

Unless otherwise specified or agreed, copyright in this report vests in GML Heritage Pty Ltd ('GML') and in the owners of any pre-existing historic source or reference material.

## Moral Rights

GML asserts its Moral Rights in this work, unless otherwise acknowledged, in accordance with the (Commonwealth) *Copyright (Moral Rights) Amendment Act 2000*. GML's moral rights include the attribution of authorship, the right not to have the work falsely attributed and the right to integrity of authorship.

## Right to Use

GML grants to the client for this project (and the client's successors in title) an irrevocable royalty-free right to reproduce or use the material from this report, except where such use infringes the copyright and/or Moral Rights of GML or third parties.

# Contents

- 1.0 Introduction.....2
  - Introduction .....2
  - Site Location and Description .....2
  - Heritage Significance and Assessment..... Error! Bookmark not defined.
  - Background Documentation.....2
  - Authorship .....3
- 2.0 Outline History and Heritage Significance .....4
  - Introduction .....4
  - Heritage Significance ..... Error! Bookmark not defined.
  - Summary Historical Background of Castle Hill .....4
  - Summary History of the Subject Site.....6
- 3.0 Interpretive Themes and Stories.....7
  - Introduction .....7
  - Themes.....7
    - Theme 1—Aboriginal Cultural Heritage .....8
    - Theme 2—Resistance and Rebellion .....9
    - Theme 3—Agriculture and Orchardng .....10
    - Theme 4—Pride in the Hills .....11
- 4.0 Audiences.....12
  - Site Location and Access .....12
  - Audiences .....12
- 5.0 Devices .....13
  - Device 1—Surface Inlays .....14
  - Device 2—Lighting.....16
  - Device 3—Public Art / Murals .....17
  - Device 4—Branding and Naming .....18
- 6.0 Implementation .....20
- 7.0 Endnotes .....21

# 1.0 Introduction

## Introduction

Landcom has engaged GML Heritage Pty Ltd (GML) to prepare a Heritage Interpretation Strategy (HIS) for the proposed redevelopment of the Hills Showground Station Precinct (hereafter referred to as ‘The Site’). The proposed development is for the Concept Approval of the State Significant Development Application SSD 9653.

The Showground Station Precinct was announced by the NSW Government in 2014. The precinct was one of a number of Priority Precincts along the North West Rail Link (now Sydney Metro Northwest).

The site that is covered by this report is part of the Showground Station Precinct and consists of the land immediately surrounding the Showground Metro Station (Development Lots subject of the Concept Master Plan). Secretary’s Environmental Assessment Requirement (SEARs) was received from DPIE 9 October 2019. SEARs included the requirements that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) addressing the following key heritage issues:

*Heritage and Archaeology*

The EIS shall:

- provide a detailed heritage impact statement (HIS) that identifies and addresses the extent of heritage impact of the proposal on the site, site curtilage and surrounding area, including any built and landscape items, conservation areas, views and settings, and in particular the impact of the proposal on heritage items of local and State significance and on items of Aboriginal culture heritage.
- consider any endorsed conservation management plans for heritage items and conservation areas in the vicinity of the site and the surrounding area
- include a heritage interpretation strategy
- where the heritage impact statement identifies potential historical archaeological impacts, a historical archaeological assessment is to be prepared by a qualified historical archaeologist in accordance with the relevant guidelines published by the Office of Environment and Heritage.

*Aboriginal Heritage*

The EIS shall provide a detailed Aboriginal heritage impact statement (AHIS) that identifies and addresses the extent of Aboriginal heritage impacts of the proposal on the site and the surrounding area, including objects, places or features (including biological diversity) of cultural value within the landscape.

If Aboriginal Cultural Heritage is found at the site, a full Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) together with document of required consultation must be provided in accordance with relevant legislation requirements and guidelines published by the Office of Environment and Heritage.

This HIS details the proposed heritage interpretation for the site in response to the history and significance of the precinct. It includes an outline of themes and stories, and options for interpretive devices, in response to the above requirements.

GML has reviewed Sydney Metro Northwest, Heritage Interpretation Plan (HIP) prepared by Artefact Heritage Services (2 November 2018). Artefact’s HIP provides an interpretive plan for the eight stations located along Sydney Metro Northwest rail line between Epping and Rouse Hill, including Showground Station. Artefact has recommended for the use of signage as the most appropriate interpretive device and has included interpretive content and signage design for each of stations. GML agrees with this approach for Showground Station and believes it is complementary to the interpretive devices included within this HIS. Please refer to Artefact’s report for further information on interpretive signage content and design for Showground Station.

Following the completion of future works, the HIS could be updated to reflect any new information or potential finds, such as new devices and stories.

## Site Location and Description

The location and extent of the site is shown in Figure 1.1 and Figure 1.2.

The site has an area of approximately 8.4ha. It is located in the suburb of Castle Hill, immediately adjacent to Showground Metro Station. The lot is bordered by Castle Hill Showground to the north, Showground Road to the east, Carrington Road to the south and Cattai Creek to the west.

The site was purchased by the NSW Government for the construction of the Sydney Metro Northwest (Sydney Metro). Sydney Metro began operation in May 2019 and the site now consists of empty lots and a former late 1990s office building on the corner of Carrington and Showground Roads.

To enable the construction of the Sydney Metro, several former depots that formerly stood on the site were demolished to make way for the new station and adjacent multistorey carpark.

## Heritage Listings

The site is not listed as a heritage item on the State Heritage Register (SHR) or within *The Hills Local Environmental Plan 2012* (the Hills LEP 2012). There are no heritage items listed in the State Heritage Register located adjacent to or in the vicinity of the site.

Although the site is not listed as a heritage item on the SHR or within the Hills LEP 2012, there are a number of heritage items listed within the Hills LEP 2012 as well as a heritage conservation area located near the site. Heritage items within 1km of the site are listed in the table below and on Figure 1.3.

Table 1.1 Listed Heritage Items within the Immediate and Wider Vicinity of the Site.

Item Address	Item Name	Item Number	Significance	Distance from Site
Windsor Road	Windsor Road from Baulkham Hills to Box Hill	I28	Local	800m west/southwest
10 Gilbert Road	Castle Hill Cemetery	I52	Local	600m north
74 Showground Road, Castle Hill	‘Dogwoods’	I67	Local	650m southeast
107 Showground Road, Castle Hill	House	I68	Local	300m southeast
128–132 Showground Road, Castle Hill	House (former farm cottage)	I69	Local	Adjacent
Corner Showground Road and Carrington Road, Castle Hill	Castle Hill Showground*	N/A	Local	Adjacent

## Background Documentation

- GML Heritage, Hills Showground Station Concept Proposal—Historical and Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment and



Heritage Impact Statement—Draft Report, prepared for Landcom, September 2019;

- GML Heritage, Showground Station Precinct—Non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment, prepared for the Department of Planning and Environment, 2015;
- GML Heritage, North West Rail Link—Historic Themes, prepared for Transport for NSW, 2012; and
- McGregor Westlake Architecture, Turpin + Crawford Studio and Hassell Studio, Sydney Metro North West Public Art Strategy, report prepared for Transport for NSW, 27 November 2015, Issue B.
- Artefact Heritage Services, Sydney Metro Northwest, Heritage Interpretation Plan, report prepared for Northwest Rapid Transit, 2 November 2018.

Authorship

This HIS was prepared by Annabelle Wijaya, Heritage and Design Consultant. Historical research was undertaken by Patrick Atkinson, Graduate Heritage Consultant. The report was reviewed by Lisa Trueman, Associate, and Claire Nunez, Senior Associate.

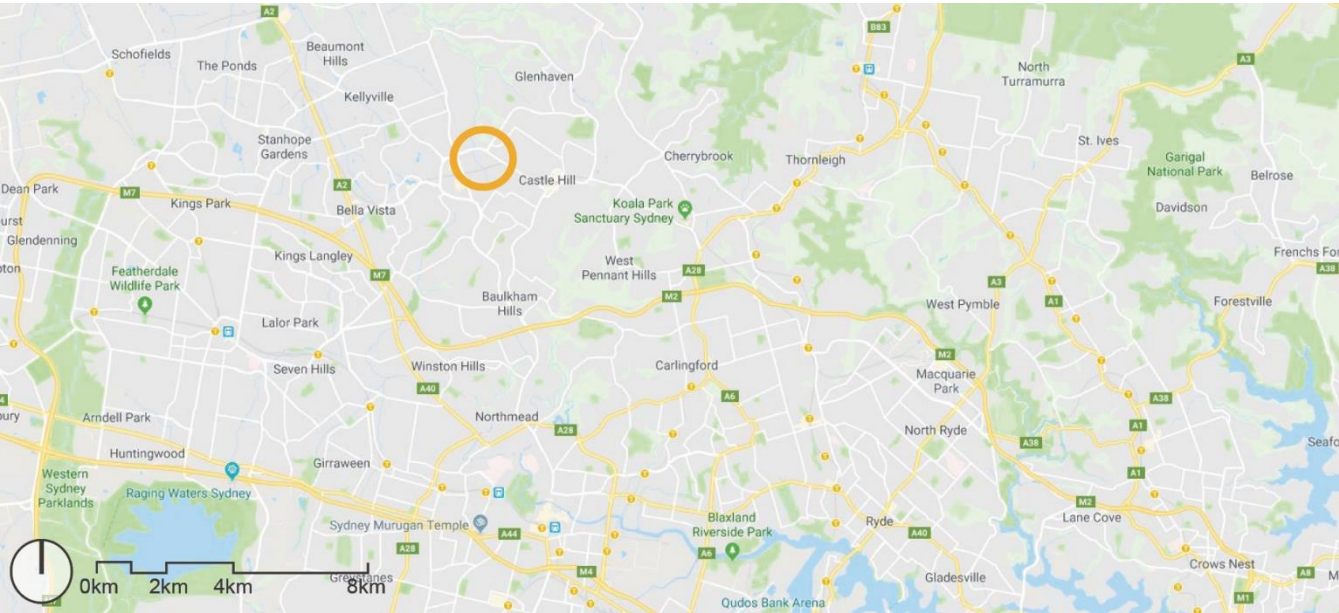


Figure 1.1 The precinct in its context. (Source: Google Earth with GML additions, 2019)



Figure 1.2 Site with the precincts identified. (Source: Near Map with GML additions, 2019)

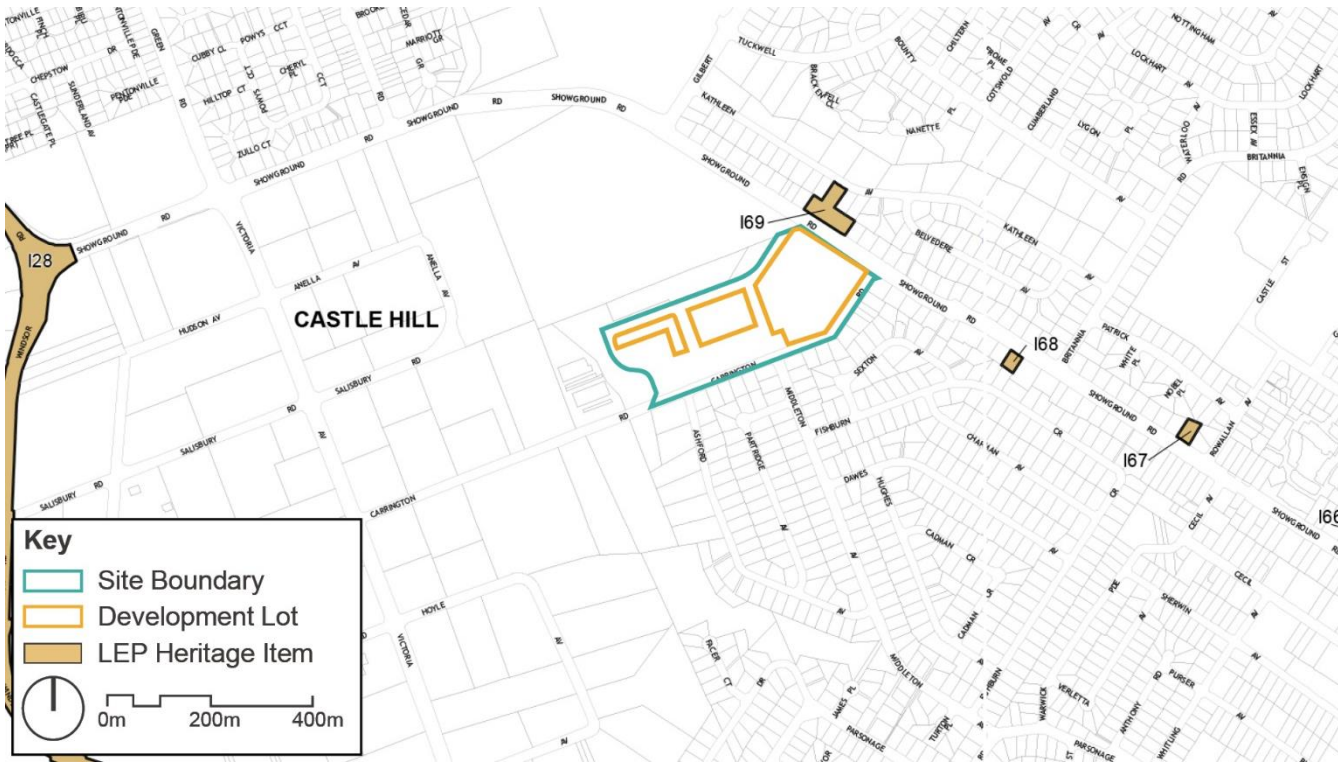


Figure 1.3 The Hills Shire LEP Map. (Source: The Hills LEP with GML additions, 2019)



## 2.0 Outline History

### Introduction

The summary history in this section draws on the information listed in the Hills Showground Station Precinct—Concept Proposal and Stage One Subdivision—Heritage Impact Statement, prepared by GML Heritage.

### Summary Historical Background of Castle Hill

#### Aboriginal History

Castle Hill is on the northern periphery of the Cumberland Plain region. It was part of the Cumberland Plain woodlands, which formed a hinterland in the hills that were lands of the Bediagal, Tugagal and Booroobirronggal.<sup>1</sup> Colonial accounts note there were differences between these groups and coastal Aboriginal people in Sydney, reflected in the ‘unique songs, dances and dialect’.<sup>2</sup>

Their sustenance was centred on small animals, insects and edible roots that could be found in the woods, as opposed to fish and molluscs—though fish such as mullet were caught in the creeks. Weapons and tools were made from stalks of grass trees, timber, or tree roots tipped with stone and bone as opposed to shells.<sup>3</sup>

Following the arrival of British colonists, the Aboriginal groups of the Castle Hill region experienced severe dislocation and disruption. Disease was the foremost cause of this disruption, but land seizures and colonial violence also contributed.



**Figure 2.1** A depiction of Pemulwuy. (Source: State Library of NSW)

Dislocation and disruption by disease and British occupation did not mean capitulation, though. Figures such as Bediagal man Pemulwuy led resistance efforts from the Castle Hill region through the 1790s.<sup>4</sup> Violent resistance continued until the early 1800s, becoming more infrequent as Aboriginal people adapted to operate within the colonial paradigm.

Aboriginal people continued to live through the Cumberland Plain despite efforts of assimilation and control. The strong Aboriginal

community in the west of Sydney and up through to the Hawkesbury is a legacy of their resilience. Now Castle Hill is represented by one of the strongest Aboriginal communities in Sydney, the Deerubbin Aboriginal Land Council, who have maintained their cultural knowledge and connections to Country, continuing to live and work in the region while celebrating these connections.

#### Early European History

Castle Hill was not touched by Europeans for the 1790s, except to create the Old Windsor Road in 1794 to link to farms farther north.<sup>5</sup> It was only in 1802 that the colony expanded into Castle Hill, when Governor King declared a government farm nearly 35,000 acres in size would be created in the area, worked by 300 convicts.<sup>6</sup>

In 1804 the farm was the centre of a convict rebellion. Irish convicts burnt houses and seized arms from the farm’s garrison in the hope of forcing their way back to Ireland.<sup>7</sup> Around 250 convict rebels made their way to a hill in Rouse Hill, where they were confronted by government forces. The resulting battle caused the rebels to scatter, resulting in their defeat and capture. Thirty were exiled and nine were executed as a result, after which the farm resumed normal operation.<sup>8</sup>



**Figure 2.2** A depiction of the Castle Hill Rebellion. (Source: National Library of Australia)

In 1810, the farm was closed and converted to a mental asylum. Residual government land was given away in 71 grants in 1818/1819, with 200 acres around the asylum being declared a township reserve.<sup>9</sup> Most of the land was then cleared for farming.



### Orchards and Farms

Initially the Castle Hill grants were cleared to graze cattle and sheep and to grow wheat and maize, but fruit-growing proved to be more lucrative, with oranges becoming a staple crop.<sup>10</sup> The Castle Hill area became known for fruit-growing in the nineteenth century, like much of northern Sydney. By the 1890s the Castle Hill district was home to well-regarded orchards, model farms and houses.<sup>11</sup>

Larger farm plots began to be subdivided around Castle Hill in the early 1890s, precipitating changes in land use which accelerated after a tramway opened in 1910. The smaller plots continued to be used to grow citrus fruits, but increasingly stone fruits, poultry, eggs and milk replaced them. The arrival of European migrants in the early twentieth century and after World War II also resulted in the rise of market gardening in the area, which focused on vegetables and flowers as the main crops.<sup>12</sup>



**Figure 2.3** A 1960s market garden farm in Castle Hill. (Source: Hills Heritage Online)

From the 1960s, Castle Hill and the surrounding areas became part of the NSW Government's plan to make residential land available in the expanding Sydney area.<sup>13</sup> Residential developments quickly replaced small farms and market gardens, resulting in the character of the suburb as it is today.

### The Castle Hill Show and Showground

The Castle Hill Show began in 1886 and was first called 'Castle Hill Sports.'<sup>14</sup> In the early years the show was held at Rogans Hill, but later moved to its current location in 1891 when the land was dedicated as a showground specifically for the show.<sup>15</sup>

The Castle Hill Agricultural and Horticultural Association built amenities on the showground soon after it was dedicated. The show featured displays of agricultural goods and animals, later expanding to include parades and displays of machinery and cars. Following the First World War, the show expanded again and a permanent pavilion, the Taylor Pavilion, was built in 1925 to meet its growing needs.<sup>16</sup>

There was a brief lull in the show during the Second World War, but it reopened to great popularity in 1946. The show was considered second only to the Royal Easter Show at this time.

By 1960, maintenance costs had grown too large. To keep the show going, it was given over to the Baulkham Hills Shire Council in 1960.<sup>17</sup> There was a spate of development after the Council took control of the showground. The Taylor Pavilion was converted to a theatre in 1965, which was followed by the construction of the Harvey Lowe Pavilion the next year.<sup>18</sup> The Hills Entertainment Centre to the south was built in the 1980s, but was demolished to make way for the Sydney Metro North West Showground Station.



**Figure 2.4** A prize-winning Clydesdale horse. (Source: Hills Heritage Online)



**Figure 2.5** The Grand Parade. (Source: Hills Heritage Online)



## Summary History of the Site

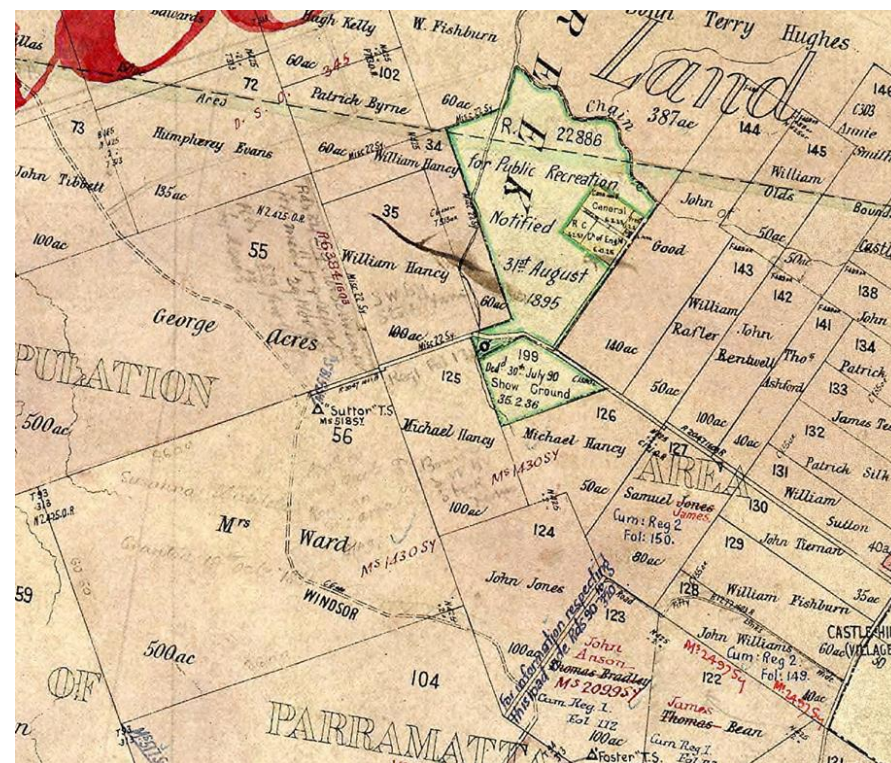
### Early European and Agricultural History

The site was part of Michael Hancey's 1819 grant, given after the colonial government changed its policies on land holdings in the Castle Hill area. Hancey's land was cleared for farming, becoming part of the agricultural milieu of the area in the nineteenth century.

In 1898, the land was then sold to Alfred Carpenter, who subdivided the land in the same year. This was known as the Suttor Estate subdivision, which included the land of the site.

The sale of the land on which the site is located was unsuccessful until 1908, when it was purchased by orchardist William Power. Power bought many of the blocks in the sale, on-selling them the following year to an auctioneer who did much the same the following decade. In the period between the subdivision sale and 1930, one of the lots was planted with fruit trees, becoming an orchard. By 1930, a couple of the lots had buildings on them, some were cleared and others still wooded.

Over the next few decades, the site remained relatively unchanged and by 1956, most of the remnant vegetation had been cleared from the land.



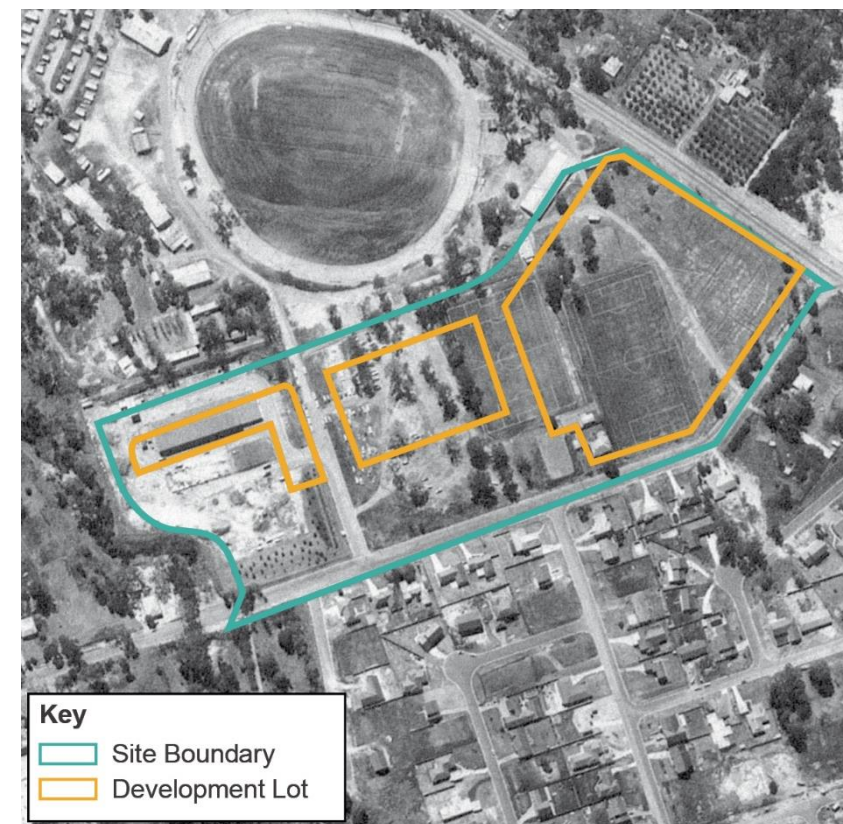
**Figure 2.6** Parish map from 1896. The Castle Hill Showground is outlined in green and clearly marked. (Source: Department of Lands)

### The Council Takes Over

The pattern of land use remained much the same throughout the 1960s. Much of the land was consolidated by Herbert Alley, a horse trainer, who trained trotters on the land, leasing the adjacent showground track to do so. He appears to have built stables on the land as well.

In 1917, Alley sold his land, part to a holding business and the rest to the Baulkham Hills Shire Council. In 1978, the portion of land which the Council purchased had two football fields and the Council's work depot on the land. The fields were gazetted for public recreation in 1971.

The next modifications for the land involved the construction of the Hills Shire Council Administrative Building, which was built in 1982. This involved extensive clearing and disturbance of surrounding lots, and the removal of one of the playing fields. By 1994, aerials show the Hills Entertainment Centre as having been built, which covered the undeveloped lots. By this point, the site has been heavily developed, losing its formerly rural character like the rest of the surrounding streets.



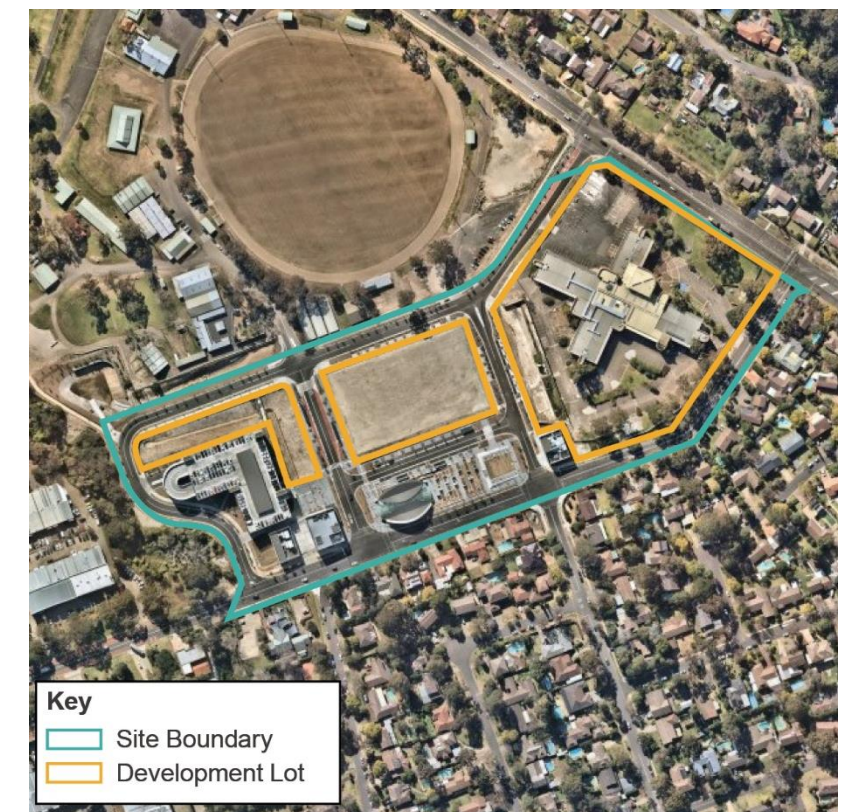
**Figure 2.7** 1978 aerial showing the showground precinct to the north of the site, and the football fields to the east. Approximate location of site boundary and development lots overlaid. (Source: Nearmap with GML overlay)

### The Metro and Beyond

From 1994 to 2013, the site was essentially unchanged. In 2013, the Hills Entertainment Centre was demolished to make way for the Showground Station of the North West Rail Link—now Sydney Metro Northwest. At the same time, the council vacated the Administrative Building and it was used as the office of the North West Rail team. This was followed by the demolition of the council works depot to the west in 2016, over which a carpark for users of the metro station was built.

By 2019, the site has completely lost the traces of its rural, agricultural past, with the showground directly to the north of the site being its last link to its former character.

The metro project was completed in 2019. The site is now subject to concept designs for the revitalisation of the area directly around Showground Station. This proposes to develop a high-density mixed residential and commercial district upon the site and that of the former Council administration building, which is proposed to be demolished.



**Figure 2.8** 2019 aerial showing the existing showground precinct to the north of the site, development of Sydney Metro and commuter carpark. Site boundary and development lots overlaid. (Source: Nearmap with GML overlay)



## 3.0 Interpretive Themes and Stories

### Introduction

Themes are a simple and effective organisational tool for planning interpretation. They provide a structure for ordering and connecting a place's natural and cultural values and significance to key stories and visitor experiences. Essentially a theme is an overarching topic. Themes need to be flexible and capable of accommodating a diverse range of stories, including those that have not previously been the subject of interpretation. If new stories and interpretive experiences are planned, they should be checked to ensure that they connect to and can be accommodated within the overarching thematic structure.

A thematic structure is important as it ensures that interpretation is coherent, memorable and accessible to visitors. From visitors' perspectives, themes provide a mechanism that helps them remember, learn and enjoy. Generally, any more than four–five themes can make connecting and comprehending a place more challenging for visitors. Unstructured by themes, interpretation and visitor experiences can become overwhelming with too many topics or ideas to absorb.

The themes that have been developed for the site are based upon the history and heritage values of the place. They reflect the resonant and enduring ideas from the past and connect with values, interests and the kinds of experiences that contemporary visitors are looking to engage in and enjoy. The themes enable the unique history and heritage of the site to be presented in a way that 'doesn't feel like history or heritage', but which has meaning and relevance to today's diverse communities.

### Themes

Listed below are key themes for the Hills Showground Station Precinct experience:

- **Theme 1: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and History.**
- **Theme 2: Resistance and Rebellion.**
- **Theme 3: Agriculture and Orchardring.**
- **Theme 4: Pride in the Hills.**

Each of these key themes embodies the historical themes and different aspects of the significance of the Hills Showground Station Precinct. Combined, they will enable important heritage values to be communicated to visitors via interpretation.

The NSW Heritage Division has developed state historical themes. This HIS identifies a range of themes and stories based on the historical evolution of the Hills Showground Station Precinct. In addition, GML prepared the North West Rail Link—Historic Themes, January 2012. Several of the themes and stories in this document are applicable to this site and have been adapted for this strategy to ensure consistency. Transport for NSW also prepared the *Sydney Metro North West Public Art Strategy*, November 2015. The vision and conceptual framework in this document have been drawn upon for the study area to ensure consistency in the storytelling of the site.

The themes on the following pages also indicate how they fit with the NSW state historical themes and include a short commentary relating the site to each of the historical themes.



## Theme 1—Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and History

### Summary

Castle Hill is located on the northern periphery of the Cumberland Plain region, which included extensive forest and woodlands. These woods formed a hinterland in the hills that were lands of the ‘woods tribes’, the Bediagal, Tugagal and Booroobirronggal.

Castle Hill is represented by the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council, who have maintained their cultural knowledge and connections to Country, continuing to live and work in the region while celebrating these connections.

This theme captures some of what we know about the First Peoples of this area—how they inhabited their Country and used the land’s natural resources. This theme also considers the impact of colonialism on the Aboriginal people and their adaptation to a new economy and dramatically different circumstances. This theme also acknowledges Aboriginal people for their resilience and ongoing spiritual and physical presence and connection at this place.

Contemporary creative expressions by Aboriginal people who would respond and interpret the lived historical experience will help to convey this theme through the eyes of Aboriginal people.

Any further development of this theme would require engagement with Aboriginal community representatives, as only Aboriginal people can speak and identify stories on behalf of their community.

### Related Themes

- NSW State Theme**

Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures

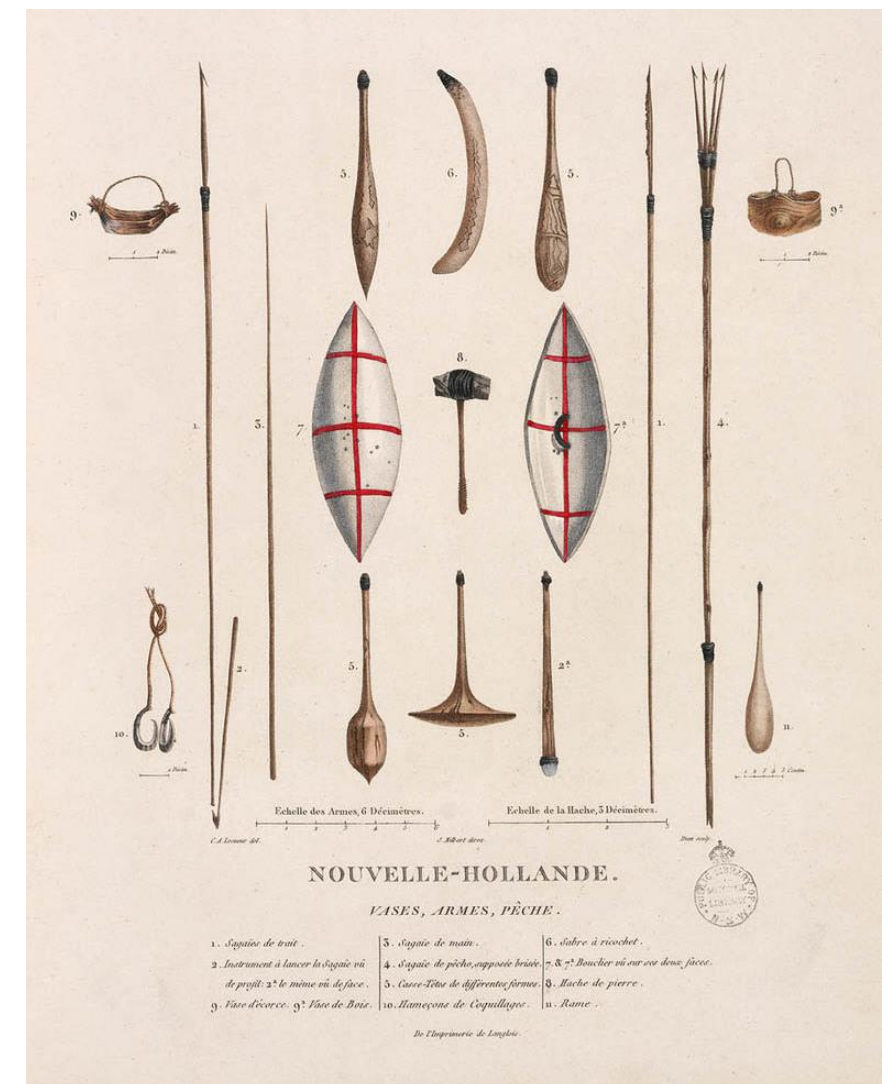
Environment: Cultural landscape—interactions between humans, human societies and the shaping of their physical surroundings



Pemulwuy, a powerful Aboriginal resistance leader against the British settlers who occupied his land, c1801. (Source: National Library of Australia [nla.cat-vn2312357])



Watercolour drawing of Cattai Creek by Charles Norton. (Source: State Library of Victoria, H91.315/14, wp00144)



Examples of tools and equipment as drawn by Charles Alexandre Lesueur. (Source: State Library of NSW, [a1340022 / MRB/ F980/ P Atlas, Plate XXII])



Shell fish hooks. (Source: Australian Museum)



## Theme 2—Resistance and Rebellion

### Summary

When the colony expanded into Castle Hill in 1802, Governor King declared a government farm nearly 35,000 acres in size. Convicts were employed to clear the heavily wooded land and for the next six years the farm used convict labour to produce wheat, barley, oats and maize for the colony. The farm became the centre of a convict rebellion in 1804. Houses were burned and arms were seized from the farm’s garrison in the hope of forcing the British to send Irish convicts home to Ireland.

This theme will explore the Castle Hill Rebellion (dubbed the second Battle of Vinegar Hill), the desire for the Irish convicts to escape and return to their homeland and the resistance, led by Phillip Cunningham.

### Related Themes

- NSW State Theme

Convict—Activities relating to incarceration, transport, reform, accommodation and working during the convict period in NSW (1788–1850)

Migration—Activities and processes associated with the resettling of people from one place to another (international, interstate, intrastate) and the impacts of such movements

### Stories

- Death or Liberty**—250 convicts at Castle Hill who had joined the resistance, rebellion leader Philip Cunningham, mutiny and raiding, Irish convicts in New South Wales.



'View of Castle Hill Government Farm' (unsigned watercolour). (Source: Mitchell Library PXD379-1 f.8)



A depiction of the convict uprising at the Castle Hill Rebellion. (Source: National Library of Australia, an5577479)

*'I do therefore proclaim the Districts of Parramatta, Castle Hill, Toongabbie, Prospect, Seven and Baulkham Hills, Hawkesbury and Nepean to be in a STATE of REBELLION; and to establish Martial Law throughout those Districts.'*—Governor King  
(Source: Historical Records of NSW, Vol. 5, p. 346)

*'Death or Liberty, and a ship to take us home!'*—Rebels  
(Source: Dictionary of Sydney, Castle Hill Convict Rebellion 1804)



The Battle of Vinegar Hill by JHW Abbott. (Source: *The Bulletin*, Vol. 50, No. 2601, 18 December 1929)



The Quartermaster, with one blow, killed Cunningham on the spot. Illustration by Norman Lindsay. (Source: 'Pages from our Past, Castle Hill', *The Lone Hand*, Vol. 13, No. 77, 1 September 1913, p 356)



## Theme 3—Agriculture and Orcharding

### Summary

The northwestern district was an important agricultural region for Sydney. The area became known as the biggest producer of fruit in the Sydney basin and renowned for its horse-breeding, poultry farming and dairies. Pioneer George Suttor grew the first oranges in the district and he claimed in 1807 that his were the first to be sent to the Sydney markets. The site was part of Michael Hancey's 1819 grant and was subdivided and resold over the following decades to a variety of owners. By the 1890s the Castle Hill district was considered to boast splendid orchards, model farms and houses. From the 1960s, the area became the focal point of the NSW Government's plan to make residential land available in the expanding Sydney area. Old orchards, rough roads and timber-framed cottages gave way to suburban blocks, and sealed roads with curbs and gutters.

### Related Themes

- NSW State Themes**

**Agriculture**—Activities relating to the cultivation and rearing of plant and animal species

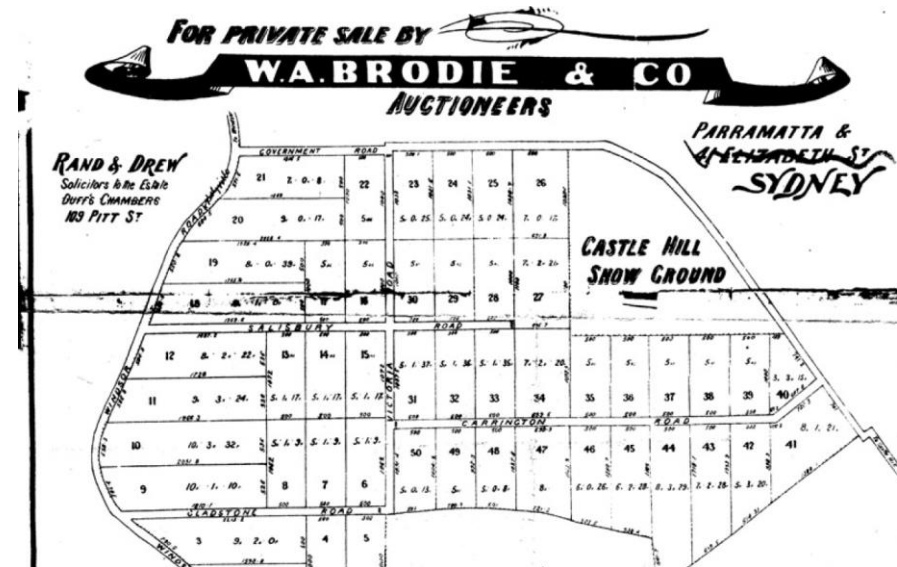
**Commerce**—Activities relating to buying, selling and exchanging goods and services

**Towns, suburbs and villages**—Activities associated with creating, planning and managing urban functions, landscapes and lifestyles in towns, suburbs and villages

**Land tenure**—Activities and processes for identifying forms of ownership and occupancy of land and water, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal

### Stories

- Splendid Orchards and Model Farms**—rich orchard lands, Sydney's citrus products, fruit growing industry, long history of agriculture in the region, key orchardists/individuals who purchased the land.
- Forgotten Lands**—past owners of the lands, alignment of lot subdivisions, old roadways throughout the site, forgotten orcharding grid patterns.



The 1898 Suttor's Estate Subdivision. The site covers Lots 35 to 40 on the plan. (Source: Hills Shire Council Local Studies)



1930 aerial showing past orchards and farming lands at the site. (Source: Nearmap)



1956 aerial showing old roadways which connected through the site from Carrington Road to De Clambe Drive. (Source: Nearmap)



Clearing around citrus trees c1880s. (Source: Hills District Historical Society)



## Theme 4—Pride in the Hills

### Summary

The Castle Hill Show developed in the 1880s from earlier sports and ploughing contests. It opened on its present site beside Showground Road in 1891 on land granted to the show society for the site of a permanent showground. It was furnished with amenities such as a timber pavilion, stables and tracks. Fencing and tree plantings soon followed. An account of the 1905 show described the crowds wearing their best clothes, with boys in sailor suits, girls in buttoned boots and pigtails, fathers in stove-piped trousers and mothers in Sunday-best dress or riding habit for sitting side-saddle.

Producers from all around came to the show to take part in its many exhibitions and competitions. Competitions such as horse jumping and trots and prizes for the best produce and animals attracted men and women alike, with women's participation in the equestrian events particularly high. From the 1940s the Castle Hill Show had the reputation of being second only to the Royal Easter Show. In the 1950s, the Castle Hill Show attracted crowds of 35,000 people.

This theme will explore the grandness of the Castle Hill Show, its exhibitions and competitions and the patrons and producers it attracted from all around the region.

### Related Themes

- **NSW State Themes**

Events—activities and processes that mark the consequences of natural and cultural occurrences

Leisure—activities associated with recreation and relaxation

Sport—activities associated with organised recreational and health promotional activities

### Stories

- **Celebration of Australian Culture**—the grandness and high reputation of the Castle Hill Show and its various exhibitions, competitions/events, produce and prizes.
- **Sunday Best**—people who have attended the Castle Hill Show from the 1880s until now, social gatherings, community.



Spectators at the Castle Hill Show, 1935. (Source: Hills Heritage Online)



The Read family on the back of their truck at the Castle Hill Show, 1947. (Source: Hills Heritage Online)



Truck loaded with empty fruit boxes, 1947. (Source: Hills Heritage Online)



Miss Showgirl entrants Robyn Dean and Helen Creaser at the Castle Hill Show, 1983. (Source: The Hills Library e-Resources)



Scout and Guide picnic at the Showground, c1942. (Source: Hills Heritage Online)



## 4.0 Audiences

### Site Location and Access

Current plans propose the following access to the precinct (see Figure 3):

- Hills Showground Sydney Metro Station;
- existing bus network; and
- proposed and existing off/on road pedestrian/cycle paths.

### Audiences

The goal of the Sydney Metro North West project is to build liveable centres around each station development, through the creation of sustainable, well-designed, higher density mixed use precincts connected by transport services.<sup>19</sup> As part of the eight new train station developments, the Hills Showground Station Precinct aims to provide more opportunities for North West Sydney to deliver new housing, jobs and business opportunities. The Hills Showground Station Precinct is included in the Global Economic Corridor, which connects the North West Growth Centre to the Sydney CBD, Macquarie Park, Chatswood, St Leonards and North Sydney. As such, up to 200,000 new residents are expected to move into the area in the coming decades.<sup>20</sup>

The type of audience engagement to be expected can be separated into three segments:

- skimmers—visitors who prefer visually engaging interpretation that is fast and easy to consume;
- delvers—visitors who are connecting with the site for the first time and are seeking multiple and easily accessible avenues for further investigation; and
- divers—visitors who value original sources, seek academic research and provide their own input.

It is possible for a visitor's engagement to shift between the segments. Their needs can be met by presenting interpretation in the form of intriguing, bite-sized content that has personal relevance with avenues for further learning.<sup>21</sup>

The potential audiences for engaging with the interpretation of the site include:

- the general public—including local residents and their visitors, local workers, students and staff at TAFE NSW;
- staff and patrons of nearby venues—proposed retail tenancies, Castle Hill Showground, Hills Basketball Stadium;
- tourists and visitors experiencing Sydney Metro; and
- special interest groups (ie heritage specialists, environmental specialists visiting Cattai Creek and Cockayne Reserve).



**Figure 4.1** Transport corridors which provide access to the site. (Source: Showground Station Precinct Site, Urban Design Report by Oculus and COX, 8 October 2019)



## 5.0 Devices

Interpretive solutions that help to create a bespoke, authentic and relaxing place for visitors during both the day and night would be a best fit for the site. Offering a distinct experience that engages a range of visitor segments would help to establish the Hills Showground Station Precinct as a destination in its own right, and would encourage both one-off and returning visitors. The proposed retail tenancies would assist in continually activating the plazas, parks and open spaces through returning visitors.

The interpretive solutions should fit within the scale of the proposed open space areas, be sympathetic to the surrounding built forms, as well as weatherproof, durable and seamlessly integrated into the landscape plan.

Turpin + Crawford Studio, in collaboration with McGregor Westlake Architecture and Hassell Studio, developed the Public Art Strategy, Light Line Social Square for the Hills Showground Station and across the entire Sydney Metro North West. Proposed devices for the site should be unique to the story of the place yet complement and enhance the visual language set within the Metro Station and public domain.

To fit this brief, we suggest the following interpretive devices for the Hills Showground Station Precinct:

- surface inlays;
- lighting;
- public art/murals; and
- branding and naming.



**Figure 5.1** Public Space plan, detailing proposed green areas, communal spaces and plazas, which could incorporate potential interpretive devices. (Source: Showground Station Precinct Site, Urban Design Report by Oculus and COX, 8 October 2019)



## Device 1—Surface Inlays

Inlays into ground and furniture surfaces are an effective way of subtly integrating historic stories into the landscape. Content could be words and images, with both the typographic and the word selection evoking the interpretive story.

### Materials

Possible materials include cast aluminium, bronze or brass, sand-blasted concrete or granite pavers, routed timber.

### Themes / Stories:

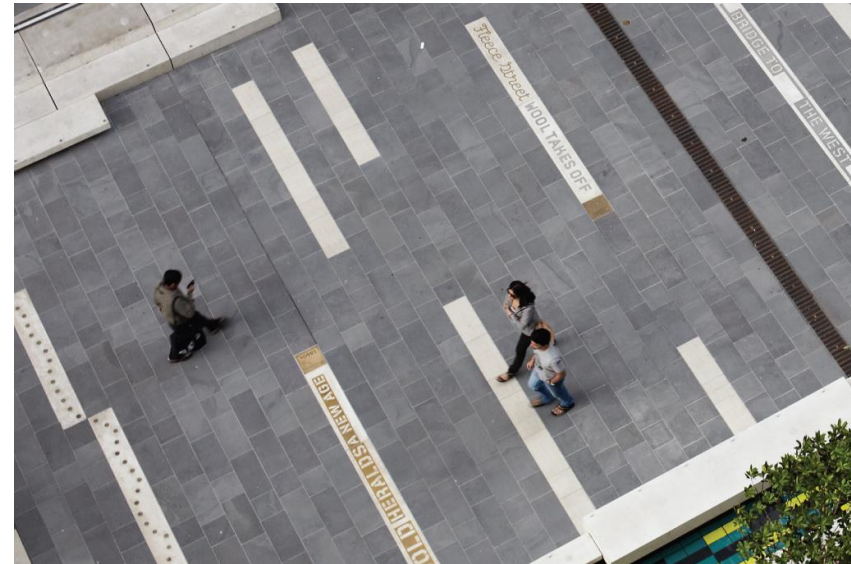
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage—contemporary Aboriginal artists could tell the story of their connection to the place.
- Resistance and Rebellion—Death or Liberty—words, quotes and articles relating to the past events.
- Agriculture and Orchardring—Splendid Orchards and Model Farms—citrus patterns, colours, quotes or images related to the long history of agriculture at the site.
- Agriculture and Orchardring—Forgotten Lands—past lot boundaries and roads indicated by strips inlaid into the paving, markers or quotes.

### Locations:

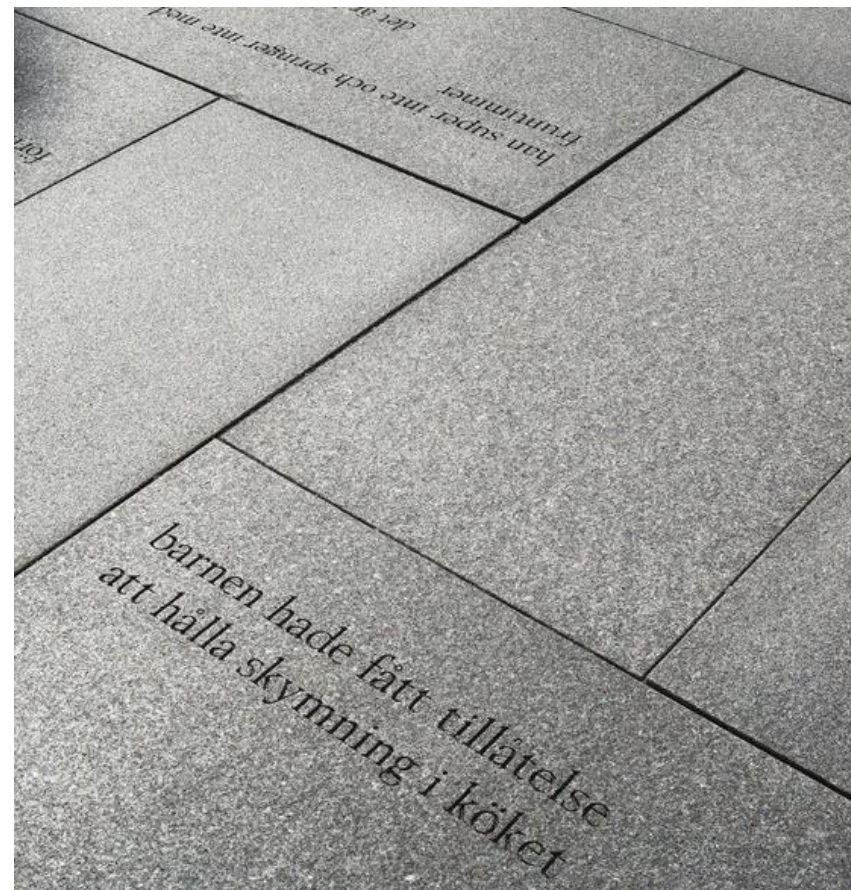
- Doran Drive Plaza
- Precinct East Park
- Communal Open Spaces

An interpretive pathway with words, poetry and patterns could be created at any of the above locations. Each location could focus on an individual theme. Strip inlays could be introduced to indicate past lot boundaries, integrated into the paving. Words and quotes relating to the social history of the site could be integrated into seating.

### Precedents—Ground Inlays



The 2010 makeover for the Darling Quarter civic connector includes a typographic timeline over 50 metres of precast concrete paving. The walk is a playful mix of different typefaces and materials, and chronicles one of Sydney's most chameleonic maritime locations. (Source: Deuce Design)



Granite pavers containing engraved quotations. (Source: Nyréns Arkitektkontor)

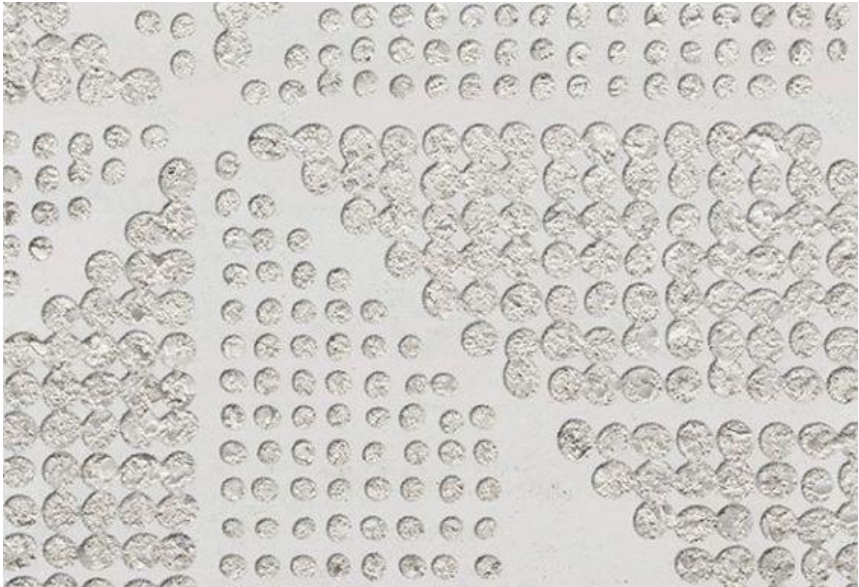


Bespoke sand-blasted paving pattern at the University of Sydney, Cadigal Green, reflecting the history of the site, once a colonial market garden and Indigenous hunting ground. (Source: TCL)



Foot path inlays at Melbourne's Town Hall. There is potential for individual cast inlays at the site relating to its history or markers for past roads or farm alignments. (Source: Pinterest)





Concrete paving with graphic imagery and patterns. (Source: Graphic Concrete)

Precedents—Street Furniture Inlays



Laser cut steel plaques installed within concrete. (Source: Asterisk Group)



Custom timber seating, with routed letters and coloured etching. (Source: Deuce Design)



Site-sensitive memorial at Ben Buckler Point, North Bondi Beach, which utilises concrete cast letters. (Source: Deuce Design)



Creative ways of incorporating a historical timeline or poetry within street furniture. Above image features sand-blasted concrete and the below image features routed timber. (Above Image Source: Deuce Design; Below Image Source: Group IBI-CHBA)



## Device 2—Lighting

The use of lighting devices would help to create a bespoke experience in the plaza or communal open spaces after dark. Lighting would assist in activating the spaces for visitors and residents and create a key opportunity for creative projections and expressions for the area.

### Themes / Stories:

- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage—contemporary Aboriginal artists could tell the story of their connection to the place.
- Agriculture and Orchardring—Splendid Orchards and Model Farms—citrus patterns, colours, quotes or images related to the long history of agriculture at the site.

### Locations:

- Doran Drive Plaza

### Precedents—Lighting



Pedestrian corridor to the University of Sydney, Cadigal Green. (Source: TCL)



Miguel Chevalier's *Flower Power* creates a virtual garden of vibrant blossoms and light, which comes alive after sunset on the piazza of the Jing An Kerry Centre in Shanghai. (Source: Design Boom)



Creative rose petal lighting by Marc Dumas in France. (Source: Pinterest)



Unique visitor attraction for Bournemouth's coastal gateway based on an 1896 narrative. (Source: Michael Grubb Studio)



Device 3—Public Art/Murals

Interpretive public art installations and/or murals would be an effective way of invigorating the open spaces and the Precinct East Park, and engage with the youth audience sector. Contemporary artists would be given a brief and interpretive content/stories to respond to—this could be historic photographs, maps, newspaper articles, quotes etc.

Activating the proposed public access ways and open spaces would assist in highlighting these areas and would help to draw in passersby.

Proposed public art/murals should complement and enhance the visual language proposed in the Light Line + Social Square Public Art project, to allow for a cohesive interpretation of the site as a whole.

Themes:

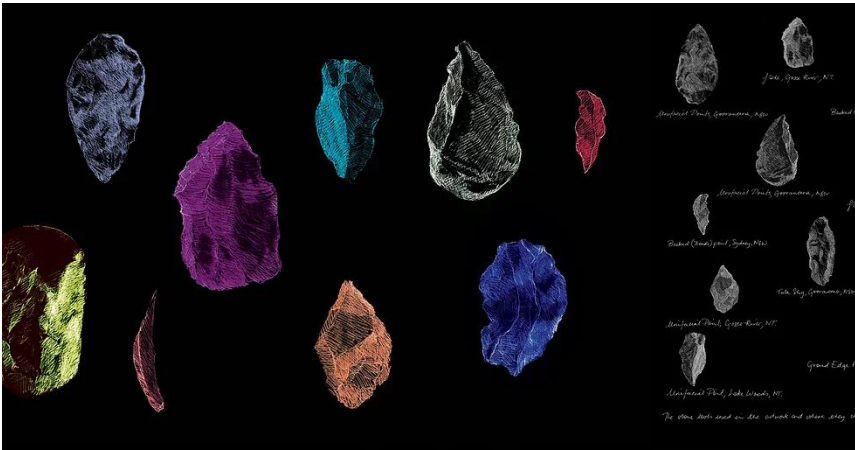
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage—contemporary Aboriginal artists could tell the story of their connection to the place.
- Pride in the Hills—Celebration of Australian Culture and Sunday Best—historic imagery and stories about the strong community connection to the site could be interpreted through murals or public art.

Locations:

- Public Art—Doran Drive Plaza
- Public Art—Precinct East Park
- Murals—wall frontages adjacent to Doran Drive Plaza or along De Clambe Drive within the Doran Drive Precinct and/or wall frontages along De Clambe Drive within the Hills Showground Precinct East where there will be potential pedestrian paths



Ngaarr by Lucy Simpson. A story of presence and strength, derived from the patterning of the inner bark of a gulabaa (eucalypt tree). These designs by Yuwaalaraay artist Lucy Simpson highlight the conversation about care of Country. (Source: City of Sydney)



Stone Jewels by Fiona Currey-Billyard. Stone tools reimagined. (Source: Fiona Currey-Billyard)



Striking mural/installation public artworks by Kamilaroi artist Reko Rennie explore themes such as Aboriginal identity and native flora and fauna in urban environments. (Source: Reko Rennie)



Sculptures by Barangaroo. (Source: Sculptures by the Sea)



Interpretive hoarding murals at 161 Sussex Street integrating historic typographic, text and historical maps. (Source: Deuce Design)



## Device 4—Branding and Naming

Branding and naming can be an effective way of bringing historic stories of a place to contemporary audiences, bringing authenticity and promoting enquiry. They can be integrated into the identity of landmarks (parks, roads and alleys), as well as brands of commercial tenancies located within the area. We suggest a new name for all three precincts, as well as encouraging future commercial tenants to consider integrating historic references into their brands and/or products.

Branding for the communal open spaces and Precinct East Park could be implemented through wayfinding signage, which could be located at the entrances to these areas.

### Themes:

- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
- Agriculture and Orchardring—Splendid Orchards and Model Farms and Forgotten Lands
- Pride in the Hills—Celebration of Australian Culture

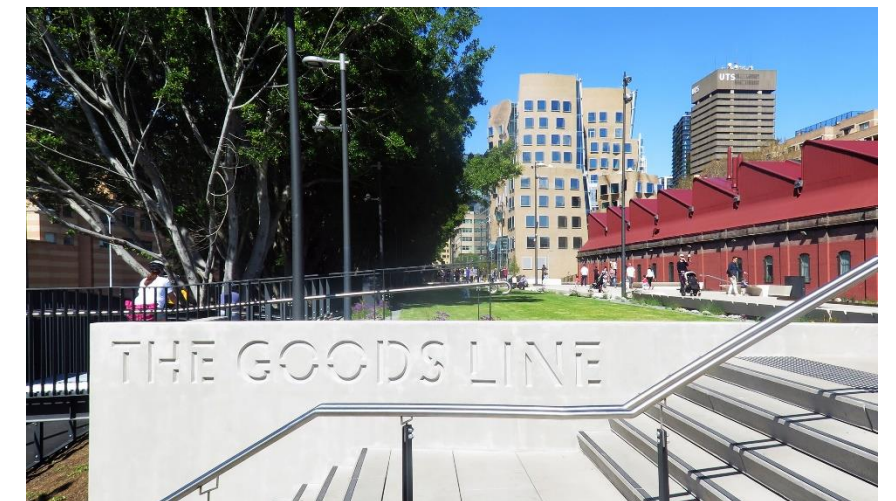
### New Brand / Name for the Plaza, Precinct East Park and the Communal Open Spaces

Some possible names for the open space areas and commercial tenancies include:

- an Aboriginal word—engaging with local Aboriginal communities to investigate possibilities for an appropriate word from local language;
- names from the history of the site—such as Michael Hancey (first land grant cleared for farming), William Power (orchardist), Herbert Alley (horse trainer);
- use of lot numbers from past subdivision of the land; and
- terminology evoking the orcharding and farming history of the place.

### Precedents—Place Naming

An example of successful interpretive place naming is The Goods Line, Ultimo. In early stages of planning the urban renewal of this historic industrial site, the project was called Ultimo Pedestrian Network—not a particularly engaging name. The interpretation strategy for the site suggested that the name be changed to The Goods Line—reflecting its name during its industrial phase—which has been successfully implemented.



The Goods Line, Pyrmont, named after the industrial phase of use. (Source: GML 2018)



Precedents—Brands of Commercial Tenants

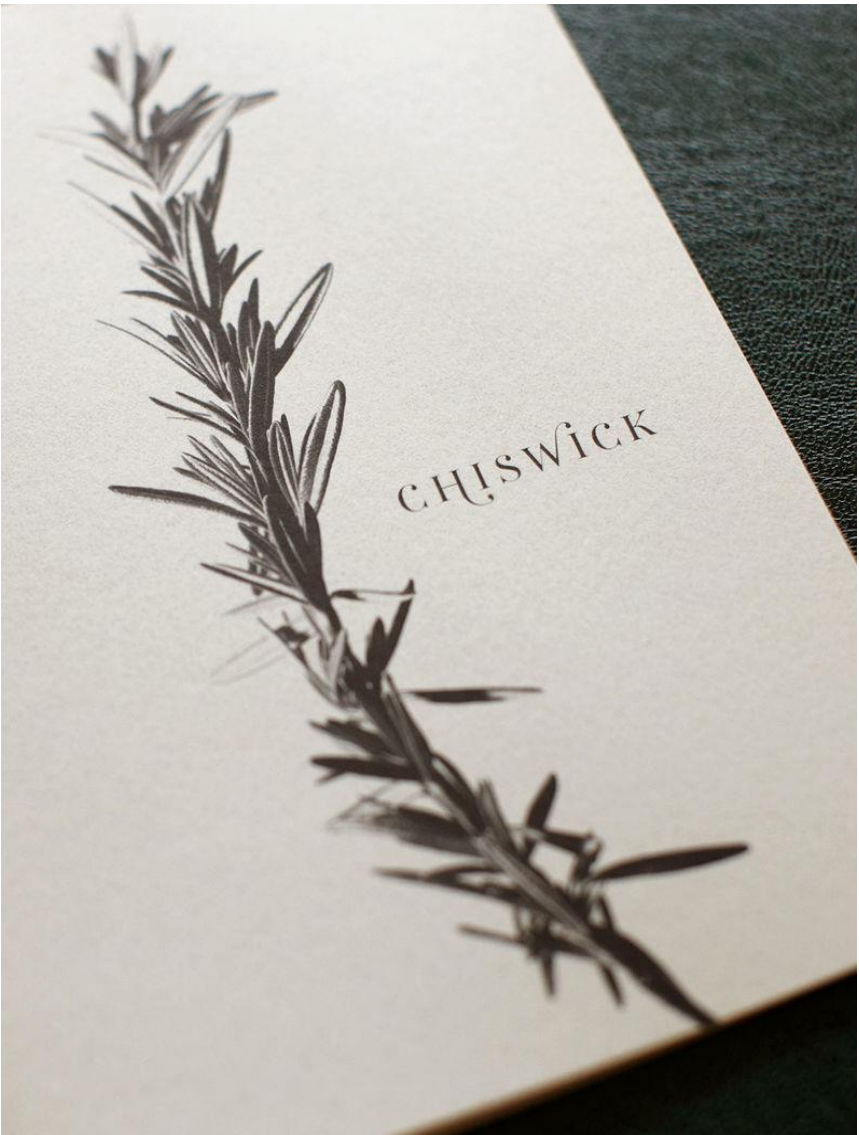
Two examples of commercial enterprises integrating historic references into their names are the Banksii bar in Barangaroo—named after Sir Joseph Banks—and Chiswick restaurant in Woollahra—named after the historic Chiswick Gardens on the site. These historic references are a conversation point for staff and visitors and bring a depth of meaning and authenticity to the experience of dining at these venues.



Signage and branding (by Frost Design) for Banksii, bar and restaurant Barangaroo, named after Sir Joseph Banks.

*The name Banksii comes from Sir Joseph Banks, the first English botanist to land on Australian shores. He became the leading authority on Australian botanical terms, and the botanical names he researched and documented are his legacy. It is from Sir Banks's' learnings that the Banksii brand identity is crafted.*

Design statement for the restaurant Banksii, Frost Design website.



Signage and branding (by Frost Design) for Chiswick restaurant, Woollahra, named after the Chiswick Gardens previously on the site.

*The existing restaurant site in the historic Chiswick Gardens was remodelled to suit Matt Moran's vision for a relaxed neighbourhood diner. At the heart of the restaurant is a 150sq m vegetable garden that supplies the restaurant with fresh produce. We created an identity to reflect the new with a nod to its botanical past.*

Design statement for the restaurant Chiswick, Frost Design website.

## 6.0 Implementation

The implementation of interpretation involves separate but interrelated tasks. The main phases in the development of interpretation include:

- research;
- preparation of interpretive content (including text and selection of imagery);
- identification of key locations for interpretive devices;
- concept design;
- consultation with project stakeholders to allow for their input into interpretive content;
- design development;
- acquisition of high-resolution images and copyright clearances for images and quoted text (if used);
- design documentation (preparation of print-ready artwork, shop drawings etc)—signage, landscaping;
- engineering advice (as necessary); and
- supply, construction and installation of all interpretive and architectural elements.

These will vary depending on the type of interpretation chosen.



# 7.0 Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Attenbrow, V 2010, *Sydney's Aboriginal Past: Investigating the Archaeological and Historical Records*, University of New South Wales Press, Kensington, NSW, p 27.

<sup>2</sup> Attenbrow, V 2010, *Sydney's Aboriginal Past: Investigating the Archaeological and Historical Records*, University of New South Wales Press, Kensington, NSW, p 28.

<sup>3</sup> Attenbrow, V 2010, *Sydney's Aboriginal Past: Investigating the Archaeological and Historical Records*, University of New South Wales Press, Kensington, NSW, p 62.

<sup>4</sup> Kohen, JL 2005, 'Pemulwuy (1750–1802)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, viewed 16 September 2019 <<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/pemulwuy-13147/text23797>>.

<sup>5</sup> Graham Edds & Associates 1995, 'Baulkam Hills Heritage Study 1993–1994' Richmond, NSW, p 8.

<sup>6</sup> Jervis, J 1929, 'The Beginnings of a Settlement in the Parish of Castle Hill', *The Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, Vol. 15, p 229.

<sup>7</sup> Whitaker, A-M 2009, 'Castle Hill Convict Rebellion', Dictionary of Sydney, viewed 17 September 2019 <[https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/castle\\_hill\\_convict\\_rebellion\\_1804](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/castle_hill_convict_rebellion_1804)>.

<sup>8</sup> Whitaker, A-M 2009, 'Castle Hill Convict Rebellion', Dictionary of Sydney, viewed 17 September 2019 <[https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/castle\\_hill\\_convict\\_rebellion\\_1804](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/castle_hill_convict_rebellion_1804)>.

<sup>9</sup> Jervis, J 1929, 'The Beginnings of a Settlement in the Parish of Castle Hill', *The Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, Vol 15, p 235.

<sup>10</sup> The Hills Shire, 'A brief history of the Shire', The Hills Shire Local Studies Library, viewed 17 September 2019 <<https://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Library/Library-e-Resources/Local-Studies-Family-History/A-Brief-History-of-the-Shire#Settlement>>.

<sup>11</sup> Jeans, D 1980, *An Historical Geography of NSW to 1901*, Sydney, Reed, p 209.

<sup>12</sup> The Hills Shire, 'A brief history of the Shire', The Hills Shire Local Studies Library, viewed 17 September 2019 <<https://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Library/Library-e-Resources/Local-Studies-Family-History/A-Brief-History-of-the-Shire#Settlement>>.

<sup>13</sup> Ashton, P and Freestone, R, 2008, 'Planning', Dictionary of Sydney, viewed 17 September 2019 <<http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/planning>>.

<sup>14</sup> Heimans, F 2011, 'Castle Hill and Hills District Agricultural Society – Di Dean interview', Hills Voices Online, viewed 17 September 2019 <<https://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Library/Library-e-Resources/Hills-Voices-Online/Community-Stories/Castle-Hill-and-Hills-District-Agricultural-Society-Di-Dean>>.

<sup>15</sup> *New South Wales Government Gazette*, 'Government Gazette Proclamations and Legislation', 30 July 1890, p 6043, viewed 17 September 2019 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article224318024>>.

<sup>16</sup> Castle Hill Show Society, 'Society History', 2019, viewed 17 September <<http://www.castlehillshow.com.au/about-us/society-history.aspx>>.

<sup>17</sup> 1960, Land Grant, Old Form Torrens Register volume 7960 folio 250, NSW Lands and Registry Services.

<sup>18</sup> Castle Hill Show Society, 'Society History', 2019, viewed 17 September <<http://www.castlehillshow.com.au/about-us/society-history.aspx>>.

<sup>19</sup> NSW Department of Planning, September 2013, *North West Rail Link Corridor Strategy*, Sydney.

<sup>20</sup> NSW Department of Planning, September 2013, *North West Rail Link Corridor Strategy*, Sydney.

<sup>21</sup> Murray, L, "‘Snore! I don't want to know about old white men’: Audience Development—Public History's Greatest Challenge", Working History—Professional Historians' Conference, Melbourne, Australia, August 2016.