



ARCHAEOLOGY - HERITAGE - MEDIATION - ARBITRATION

PARRAMATTA NORTH URBAN RENEWAL

CUMBERLAND EAST PRECINCT and SPORTS & LEISURE PRECINCT

Aboriginal Archaeological & Cultural Heritage Assessment

PREPARED BY	JILLIAN COMBER
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UrbanGrowth are preparing a planning proposal to enable the urban renewal of the Cumberland Precinct and the Sports and Leisure Precinct of the Parramatta North Urban Renewal (PNUR) area. The recommended planning controls have been prepared recognising the locational advantages of the PNUR to the Parramatta CBD, the Westmead Health Precinct, the Rydalmere Education Precinct, and transport options. The renewal of the area provides exceptional opportunities for the delivery of housing cultural and community uses, and the capacity to protect, enhance and re-use significant heritage buildings and structures.

This report provides the relevant information to ensure the protection and best practice management of Aboriginal archaeology and cultural heritage within the Cumberland Precinct and Sports and Leisure Precinct. This report has been prepared in accordance with the Office of Environment & Heritage's (OEH) *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*.

Aboriginal community representatives have advised that the study area is of high significance to the Aboriginal community. Both Precincts, although impacted by ongoing use since settlement, have the potential to contain subsurface evidence of Aboriginal occupation. The Sports and Leisure Precinct contains a portion of Parramatta Park which is a highly significant Aboriginal cultural landscape with known sites consisting of artefact scatters, scarred trees and resource zones.

This report makes the following recommendations:

- 1.0 Development of Parramatta Park should be limited to the footprint of the existing swimming pool and associated carparks within the Sports & Leisure Precinct. Parramatta Park is a significant cultural landscape which should remain as public open space used for informal recreational activities.
- 2.0 The feeling of openness and seclusion which contribute to an understanding of the cultural landscape of Parramatta Park should be maintained. High rise development adjacent to the Park that can be viewed from within the Park may have a negative impact on this appreciation of the precontact Aboriginal landscape. Appropriate and sensitive urban design principles should be developed which will mitigate this negative impact. View lines to and from Parramatta Park should be managed as detailed in the report by Planisphere (2012).

3.0 Further research is required to ensure best practice management of the Aboriginal values within the study area. This includes:

- Research about Aboriginal incarceration and contemporary associations with the Cumberland Precinct and Sports and Leisure Precinct. This should include an oral history program with the Aboriginal community to aid in the assessment of contemporary Aboriginal significance. The history contained in this report should be updated to include information about Aboriginal associations with the Cumberland Precinct and Sports and Leisure Precinct obtained from the research and oral histories.
- Geotechnical testing should be undertaken to determine the nature of the soils, to identify the level of fill and whether the Parramatta Terrace Sand exists within the area to be developed.
- Further Aboriginal community consultation should be undertaken in accordance with the Office of Environment & Heritage's (OEH) *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*. This should be undertaken for the whole of the study area. This consultation should be undertaken prior to the archaeological testing detailed below.
- Once that consultation has been completed Aboriginal archaeological testing should be undertaken in accordance with OEH's *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*. This testing should be undertaken for the whole of the study area to gain a detailed understanding of the nature and extent of Aboriginal "objects" within the study area. This will assist in the formulation of management recommendations for Aboriginal objects, including the possibility for the need to apply for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP). A detailed research design which includes the proposed methodology for such testing should be developed in association with Aboriginal stakeholders to guide the program of archaeological testing. This testing can be undertaken without an AHIP if undertaken in accordance with OEH's *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*. Aboriginal community consultation should be undertaken in accordance with OEH's *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*, prior to the testing.
- An interpretation plan should be developed which includes interpretation of the Aboriginal history, significance and occupation of Parramatta and the study area.



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

LOCATION

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES



1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Parramatta North Urban Renewal area (PNUR) is located to the west and north-west of the Parramatta CBD, Sydney's second CBD. Parramatta is located in the geographical heart of Sydney and plays a significant role in the Greater Metropolitan area as the most important centre in Western Sydney. The PNUR is located to the east of the Westmead Health campus, separated by the Parramatta River and is also within close proximity to the Rydalmere Education Precinct and transport links. The PNUR is a 146ha area and has been divided into four distinct Precincts comprising:

- The Cumberland Precinct (40 Ha)
- Sport and Leisure Precinct (21 Ha)
- Old Kings School Precinct (4 Ha), and
- Parramatta Park Precinct (81 Ha)

UrbanGrowth NSW are preparing a planning proposal to enable the urban renewal of the Cumberland Precinct and the Sports and Leisure Precinct of the Parramatta North Urban Renewal area.

Comber Consultants have been engaged by UrbanGrowth NSW to assess the Aboriginal archaeological and cultural heritage impacts/issues relating to the proposed amendment to the planning framework applying to the study area. The investigations relate only to the Cumberland and Sports and Leisure Precincts within the PNUR. The assessment has been undertaken to inform a State Significant Site study (the Study) which is investigating potential amendments of the statutory planning controls applying to the Cumberland and Sports and Leisure Precincts of the PNUR.

PNUR includes many locational and site specific attributes, including frontage to the Parramatta River and a rich history of Aboriginal, early colonial, nineteenth and twentieth century uses. The potential exists to deliver housing and employment opportunities in a precinct that will embrace and interpret these heritage attributes to make them a focus of the urban environment that will emerge through future development and facilitate their retention and re-use.

This report provides the relevant information to ensure the protection and best practice management of Aboriginal archaeology and cultural heritage within the Cumberland Precinct and Sport and Leisure Precinct. This report has been prepared in accordance with the Office of Environment & Heritage's (OEH) *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*.

1.2 Location

Parramatta is located approximately 25km to the west of Sydney within the Parramatta local government area. Figure 1 shows the location of Parramatta. The PNUR is located to the west and north-west of the Parramatta CBD as shown on Figure 2. The boundaries of the Cumberland and Sports & Leisure precincts within the PNUR, are shown in Figure 2.

The Sports and Leisure Precinct (SLP) is located centrally within the PNUR. The SLP is delineated to the west and south by the meander of the Parramatta River, O'Connell Street to the east and Grose Street to the north. The SLP includes that portion of Parramatta Park which is located on the eastern side of Parramatta River.

The Cumberland Precinct (CP) is the northern most part of the PNUR and is broadly delineated by the meander of the Parramatta River to the west and north, O'Connell Street to the east and Grose Street to the south.

Combined, the two precincts comprise the areas of the PNUR to the east of the Parramatta River and west of O'Connell Street. The lands to the west of the Parramatta River contain Parramatta Park, including Old Government House and Domain, whilst the lands to east within the SLP include that portion of Parramatta Park which contains the archaeological remains of the Government Farm, Caley's Botanical Garden, the Old Kings Oval, the swimming pool and associated carparks. Please see Figure 3 which shows the boundary of Parramatta Park.

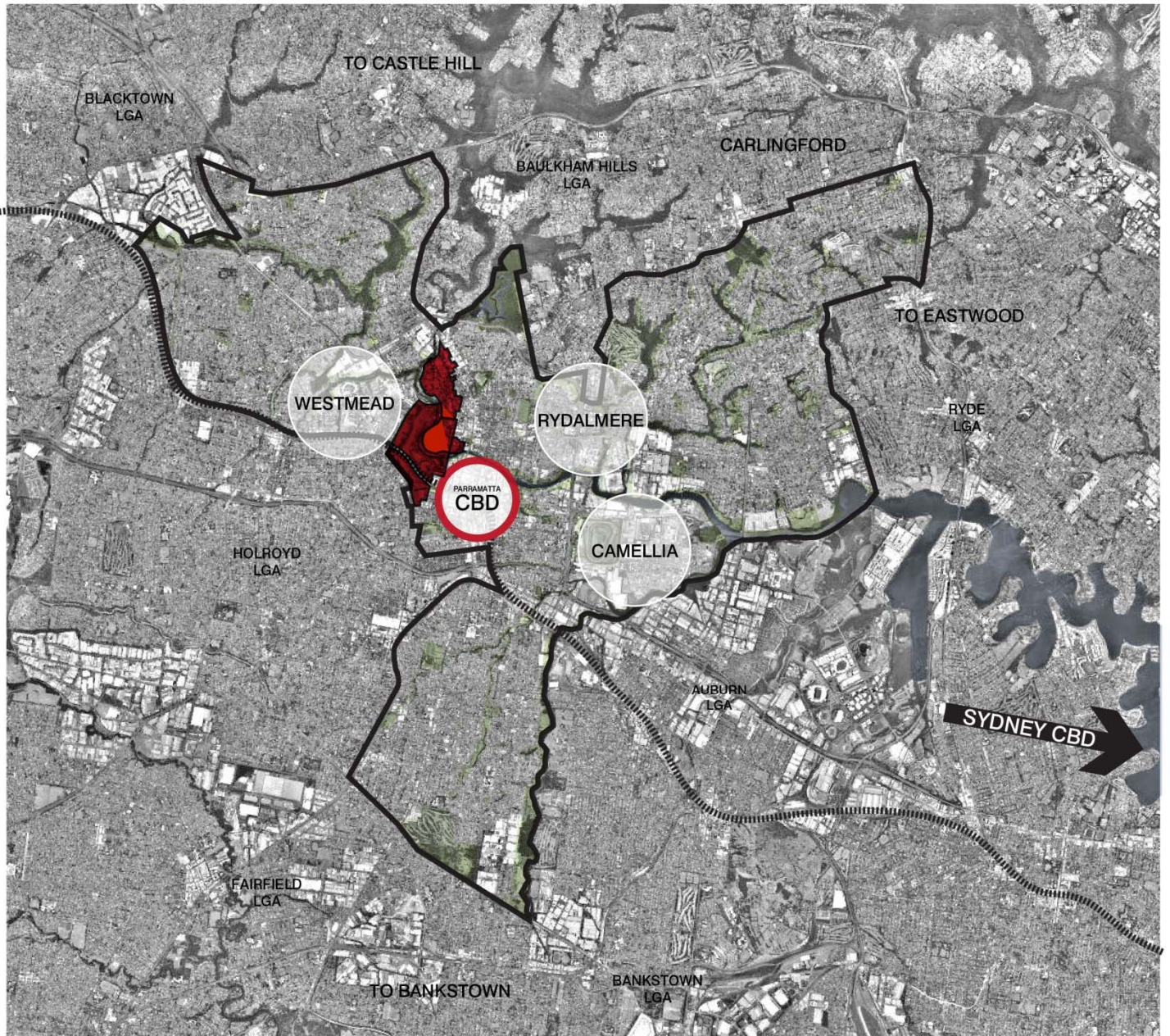


Figure 1: Location of Parramatta and study area

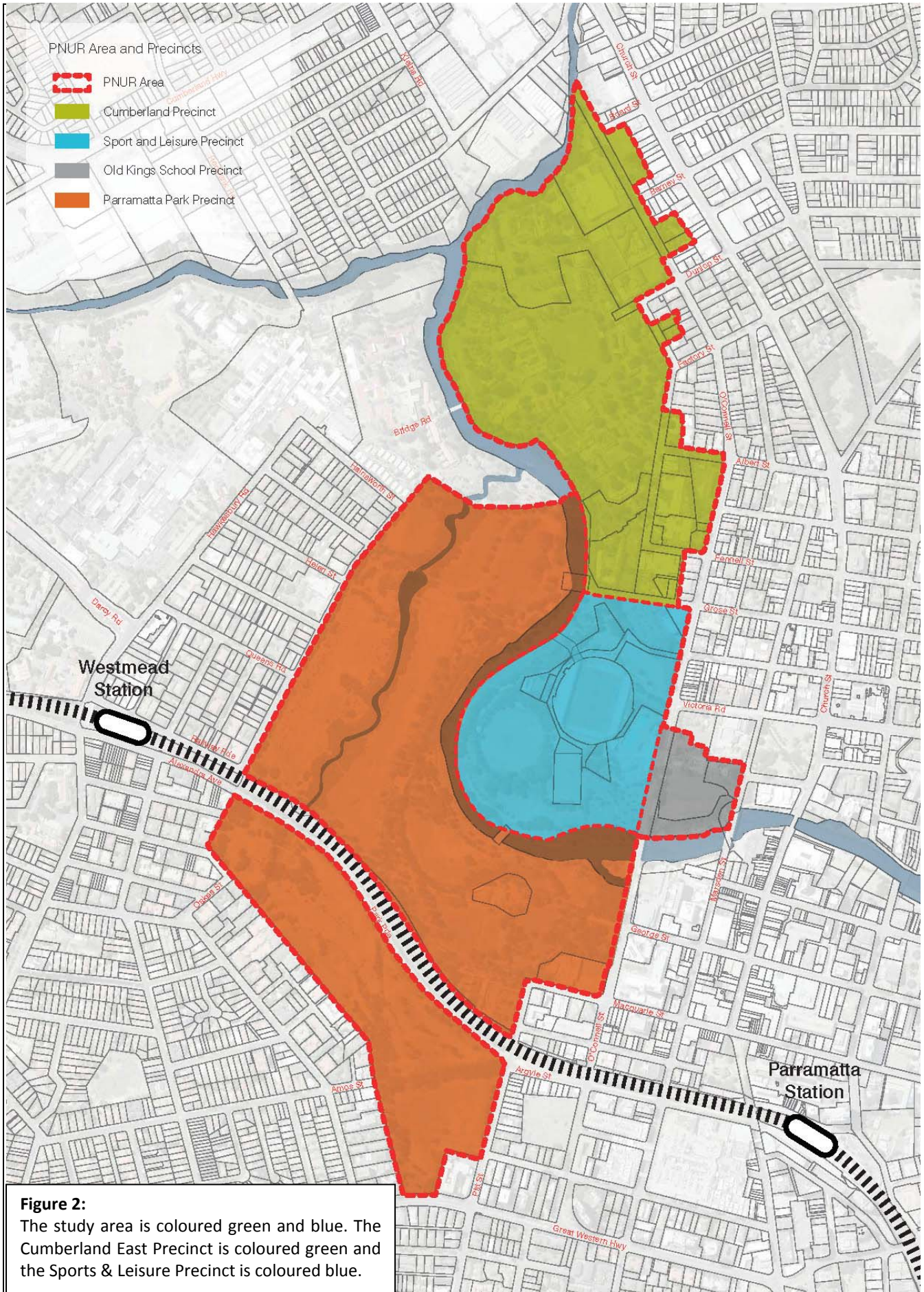


Figure 2:
The study area is coloured green and blue. The Cumberland East Precinct is coloured green and the Sports & Leisure Precinct is coloured blue.

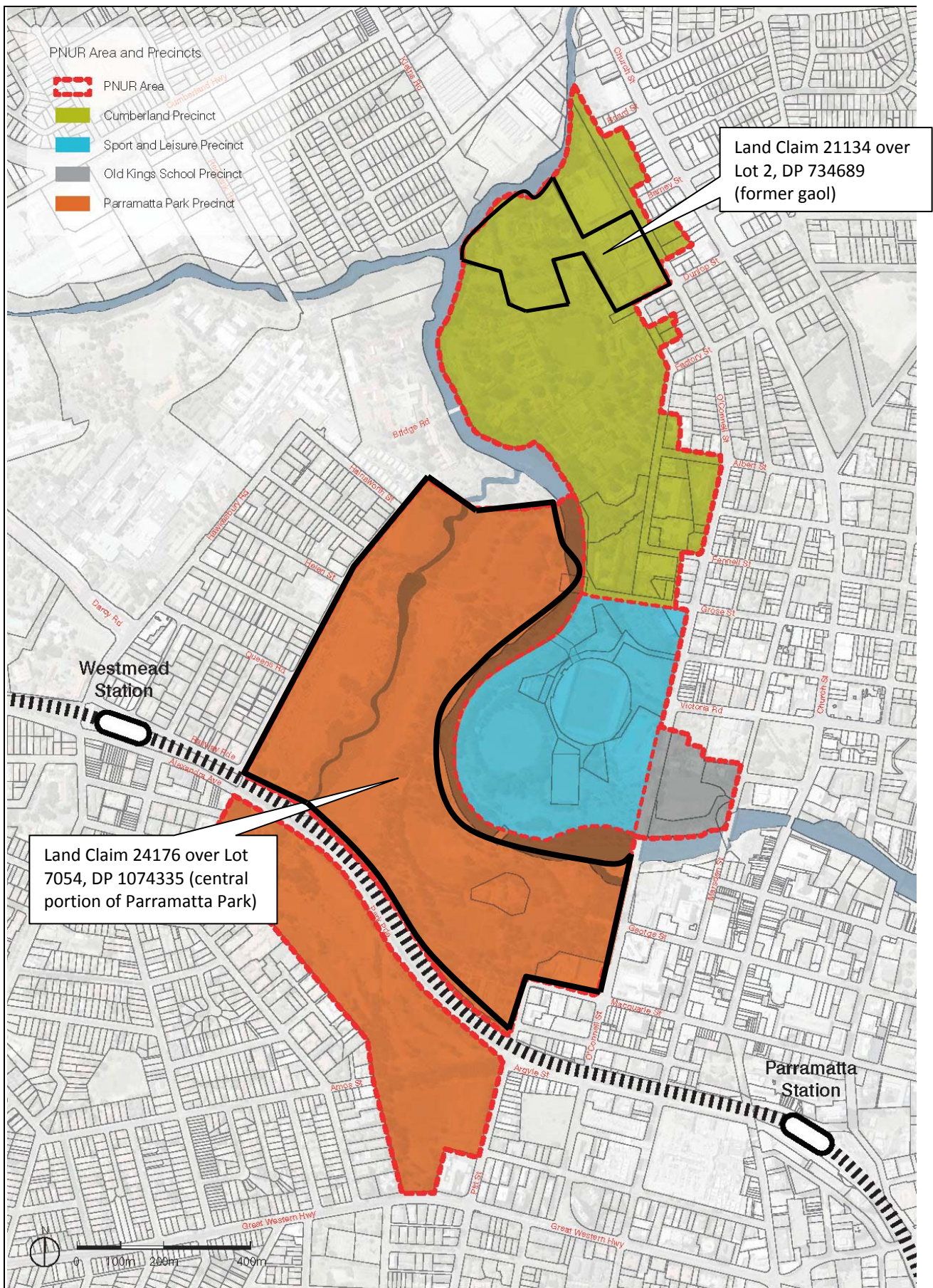


Figure 3: Land Claim boundaries are edged in black



1.3 Planning Proposal

The amendment to the statutory planning provisions is anticipated to be undertaken via a State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) to amend the provisions of Parramatta City Centre LEP 2007 and Parramatta LEP 2011. Site specific Development Control Plan (DCP) provisions are also proposed to be prepared to guide future development. Amendment of the planning framework will facilitate the lodgement of future Development Applications with Parramatta City Council to be assessed and determined under the provisions of Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The study proposes amendments to the planning framework, including revisions to the development controls that will facilitate a mixed use residential redevelopment of the study area. The proposed amended planning framework will facilitate the lodgement of future development applications for the land in the study area which are anticipated to achieve the following development yields:

Cumberland Precinct

- Approximately 4,100 dwellings
- Approximately 28,000m² GFA of adaptive reuse of retained heritage buildings
- Up to 4,000m² GFA of retail space

Sports and Leisure Precinct

- Approximately 34,000m² GFA of mixed use (likely to be predominantly commercial)

Figure 4 shows the area proposed for rezoning. Figure 5 shows an indicative layout for future redevelopment.

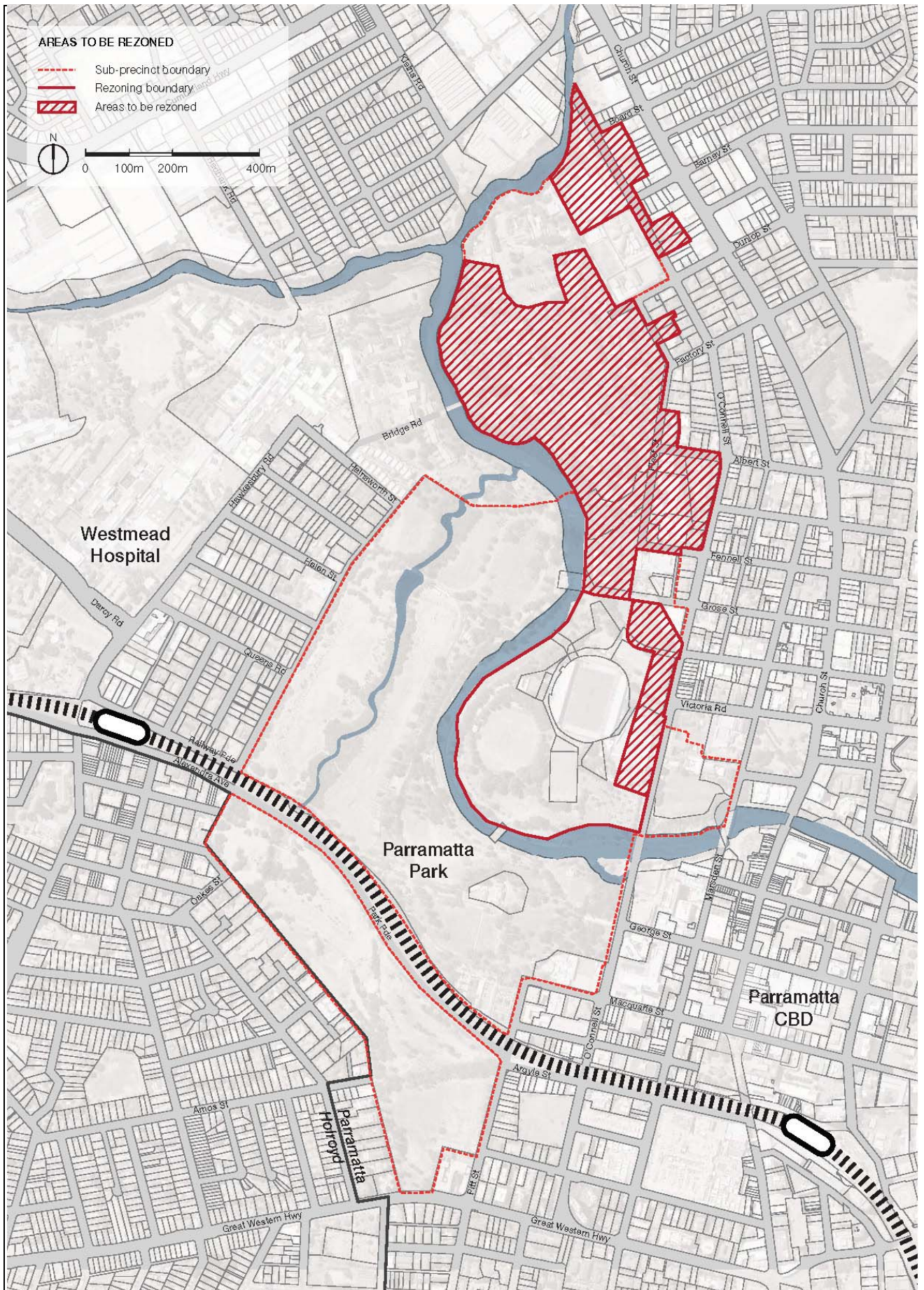


Figure 4: Showing rezoning boundaries

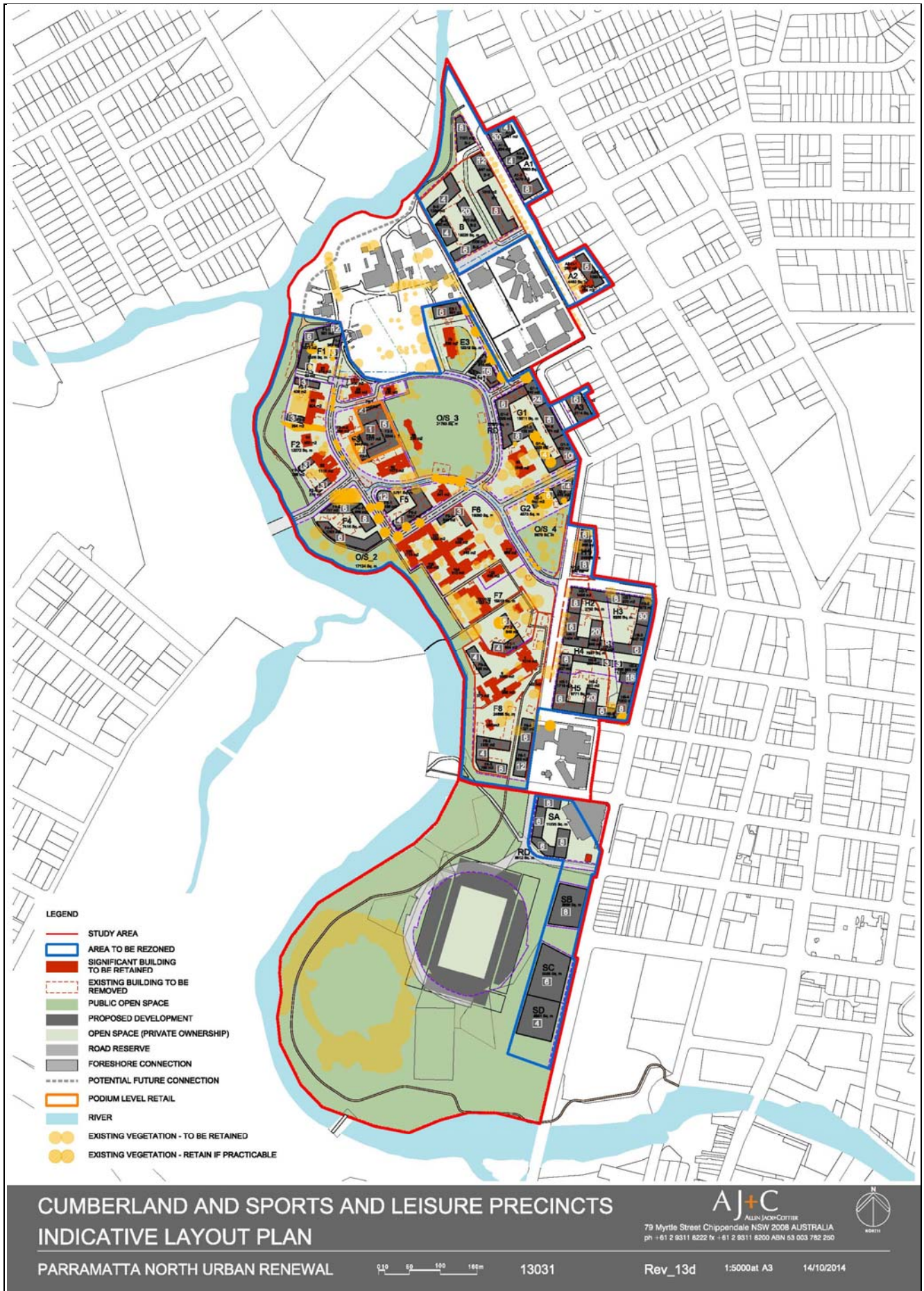


Figure 5: Indicative layout for future redevelopment



1.3 Existing Land uses

Land uses and facilities currently located within the SLP include Parramatta Stadium and associated facilities, Parramatta public pool, Parramatta Leagues Club, open space parkland and venue car parking. These built facilities and associated structures occupy predominantly the north eastern two thirds of the precinct. The balance of the precinct, nestled inside the meander of the Parramatta River, is predominantly landscaped open space with some incursion of at grade car parking. A portion of this precinct contains the Parramatta Park which includes the Old Kings Oval, the swimming pool and associated carparks and the archaeological remains of the Government Farm. Figure 3 shows the portion of Parramatta Park which is included in this precinct.

Land uses within the Cumberland Precinct include the Cumberland Hospital, the NSW Linen Service, allied health related uses and NGOs and the former Parramatta Gaol, which is not subject to re-zoning. The precinct contains buildings of State and local heritage significance as well as potential Aboriginal archaeological sites. Buildings are dispersed throughout the precinct serviced by an irregular access network and broadly surrounding a central oval. These clusters of buildings are interspersed with vegetation and are framed by an almost continuous band of vegetation framing the eastern bank of the Parramatta River.

1.4 Report Authors and Acknowledgements

This report was written by Jillian Comber, Archaeologist, B.A., Litt.B., with the exception of the history provided in section 4. The history was written by Caroline Plim, Historian, B.A., Assoc Dip. Loc & Applied History.

The author would like to thank Jennifer Sweeney of UrbanGrowth NSW, Megan Jones and Sean Williams of TKD Architects for their coordination and assistance.

1.5 Limitations

This report has been prepared within the project timeframe. This allowed for a detailed Aboriginal precontact history. It is acknowledged that there needs to be further research about Aboriginal incarceration and contemporary associations within the Cumberland Precinct and Sports and Leisure Precinct. Such research, including oral histories with Aboriginal people who have associations with the site will provide greater detail on the significance of the Cumberland Precinct. As a result, this report recommends that further research should be undertaken prior to applying for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit.

2.0 LEGISLATION



2.0 LEGISLATION

2.1 National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974

The *National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) provides statutory protection to all Aboriginal sites within New South Wales. The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) is the State Government agency responsible for the implementation and management of this Act.

Part 6 of the NPW Act provides provision for protection of all “Aboriginal objects” which are defined 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.

In particular Part 6 of the Act states that it is an offence to harm or desecrate an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place, without an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP). To obtain an AHIP, the following must be undertaken:

- Consultation must be undertaken with the Aboriginal community in accordance with OEH’s *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*. Such consultation requires advertising the project, writing to stakeholders, holding a meeting, preparing an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Report for review by the Aboriginal stakeholders. This can take 4-5 months to undertake.
- Testing in accordance with OEH’s *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*. This testing must be undertaken prior to applying for the AHIP and once the above consultation has been completed. The aim of the testing is to determine the nature and extent of the archaeological deposit and inform the AHIP application. A research design must be prepared which clearly outlines the proposed methodology for the testing. This research design must be prepared in association with the Aboriginal community during the consultation detailed above.

The above can be undertaken for the whole of the site, rather than applying for individual AHIPS each time a development is proposed. Liaison should be undertaken with the Office of Environment & Heritage.

2.3 NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983

The *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* was established to provide land rights to the Aboriginal people of New South Wales for the loss and dispossession of the land. The Act recognises that land is of spiritual, social, cultural and economic importance to Aboriginal people. It provides for the transfer of ownership of vacant Crown land not required for an essential purpose or for residential purposes to an Aboriginal Land Council. The Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council have advised that the NSW Aboriginal Land Council has lodged two land claims on behalf of the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council, which are relevant to this project. These claims, which are detailed below, have not yet been resolved.

- Land Claim 21134 over Lot 2, DP 734689. This claim is over the former Parramatta Gaol as decommissioned Crown land, and is hatched red on Figure 3.
- Land Claim 24176 over Lot 7054, DP 1074335. This claim is over the central part of Parramatta Park between the Parramatta River and Park Parade. It does not include the land leased to the Parramatta Golf Club or the land on the eastern side of the River which includes the Old Kings Oval, Parramatta Stadium and Parramatta Swimming Pool. The area of the claim hatched orange on Figure 3.

Section 52(4) of the Act also states that Local Aboriginal Land Councils are responsible for Aboriginal cultural heritage management within their boundaries. The study area falls within the boundaries of the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council (DLALC). In recognition of that role, consultation has been undertaken with the DLALC in respect of this project.

2.4 Native Title Act 1993

The *Native Title Act 1993* is Commonwealth legislation which provides recognition by Australian law that some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have rights and interests to their land arising from their traditional laws and customs. The Federal



Court of Australia mediates claims made by Aboriginal and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and makes Native Title determinations. The National Native Title Tribunal was established to administer Native Title claims and applies the registration test to all new native title claimant applications and undertakes “future act” mediation and arbitral functions. The Act also provides for Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA) which is an agreement about land and sea management. An ILUA can be negotiated over areas where Native Title has or has not yet been determined.

A search of the National Native Title Register on 26/08/2014 indicated that the study area is not the subject of a Native Title Claim, application or ILUA.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

METHODOLOGY

EFFECTIVE SURVEY COVERAGE



3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methodology

This project was conducted in accordance with the Office of Environment and Heritage's *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*.

The project was conducted in three stages, which were background research, site inspection and report production, as detailed below:

Stage 1: Background Research

Prior to the field component of this project, the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) of the Office of Environment and Heritage was consulted and the results of an extensive search were received on 21st July 2014. Site data, associated documents and archaeological survey reports held in this database were reviewed. Environmental information relating to Aboriginal land use was also consulted. Such research facilitated the understanding of the potential nature of the sites and site patterning in the region, which enabled the predictive statement to be made. It also provided an archaeological and environmental context within which a significance assessment could be made of the study area.

Stage 2: Site Inspection

The archaeological site inspection was undertaken on Wednesday 30th July 2014. The aim of the inspection was to locate and record any Aboriginal sites which may be visible within the study area and to determine the archaeological potential of the study area. The following people participated:

- Jillian Comber, Comber Consultants
- Steve Randall, Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council
- John Reilly, Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation
- Justine Coplin, Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation
- Gordon Morton, Darug Cultural Heritage Assessment

A further site inspection was undertaken on Wednesday 3rd September with members of the Parramatta City Council Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee, as follows:

- Jillian Comber, Comber Consultants
- Jennifer Sweeney, UrbanGrowth NSW

Parramatta City Council Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Committee members:

- Lyn Leerson
- Sharon Shuttleworth
- Christine Nobilia
- Paul Barber
- Phil Russo
- Phillip Bradley
- Gordon Workman
- Ben Staples

The whole of the study area was inspected on foot and by car.

Stage 3: Report Preparation

After completing the inspection, this draft report was compiled by Comber Consultants Pty Ltd and a copy was provided to UrbanGrowth and the above organisations for comment and then finalisation.

3.2 Effective Survey Coverage

The study area contains landscaped and grassed open areas and playing fields plus hospital buildings. As a result ground visibility was nil.

The visibility of some site types such as open artefact scatters is dependent upon ground visibility and exposure. The Office of Environment & Heritage's guidelines (2010) suggest that this information is to be presented in a table which quantifies and details the local detectability. However, as ground visibility was nil there is no need to use the recommended table.

4.0 ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION



4.0 ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION

Aboriginal culture is dynamic and continuous. It includes the tangible and intangible and links people over time to their community and land. It is important to recognise that Aboriginal people have the right to protect, preserve and promote their cultural heritage. In recognition of that right, the organisations detailed below were invited to take part in the project and participated fully in this archaeological assessment.

Prior to the site inspection and assessment being undertaken, the following organisations were contacted by email and phone to discuss the project and their participation. Maps were forwarded to each organisation which clearly outlined the location of the proposed development. Representatives, as detailed below attended a site inspection on 30th July 2014

- Mr Steve Randall, Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Mr John Reilly, Darug Aboriginal Tribal Corporation
- Ms Justine Coplin, Darug Aboriginal Custodian Corporation
- Mr Gordon Morton, Darug Cultural Heritage Assessment

In addition, Jillian Comber and representatives from UrbanGrowth attended a Parramatta City Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee meeting on 26th August. A site inspection with the Committee was then undertaken on Wednesday 3rd September 2014 with Jillian Comber and Jennifer Sweeney from UrbanGrowth. John Robertson, a member of the committee, sent his apologies, as he had been hospitalised. Following are the committee members who attended the site inspection.

- Lyn Leerson
- Sharon Shuttleworth
- Christine Nobilia
- Paul Barber
- Phil Russo
- Phillip Bradley
- Gordon Workman
- Ben Staples

The draft report was forwarded to the above organisations for comment and written reports from Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council, Darug Aboriginal Tribal Corporation, Darug Aboriginal Custodian Corporation, Darug Cultural Heritage Assessment, Sharon Shuttleworth and Christine Nobilia are appended and their views included in the significance assessment and recommendations.

All of the above representatives have advised that the study area is of high significance to the Aboriginal community. Both Precincts, although impacted by ongoing use since settlement, have the potential to contain subsurface evidence of Aboriginal occupation.

The Sports and Leisure Precinct contains a portion of Parramatta Park. Parramatta Park is a highly significant Aboriginal cultural landscape with known sites consisting of artefact scatters, scarred trees and resource zones. This landscape contains many memories for Aboriginal people and evidence of past activities. The local and broader Aboriginal community value Parramatta Park for the spiritual and physical values contained within the landscape. They see the whole of the Park as a cultural landscape imbued with significant cultural meaning. They see the Park as a rare and valuable cultural and natural landscape representing the history of the Darug Nation. The Cumberland Plain vegetation within the Park is an integral part of that history. Darug cultural values include the strong relationship they have with the environment and its natural resources. Once the only people occupying Parramatta Park, they managed and utilised the natural resources according to Darug lore to maintain systems and species. Thus the health of the land and the maintenance of biodiversity remains linked to the well being of the Darug, both physically and spiritually. It represents their past and their future. In addition, they value the Park as a teaching resource and as a source of cultural maintenance and renewal. They regularly visit Parramatta Park with their families to teach Darug history. All of the above organisations would like to see Parramatta Park maintained as green open space for recreational purposes. They would also like to ensure that view lines to and from the Park are maintained and that high density, high rise development does not occur on the boundaries of the Park.

5.0 ABORIGINAL HISTORY



5.0 ABORIGINAL HISTORY

5.1 Darug

The Darug people are the traditional owners of the main east-west ridge of the Blue Mountains, the northern Blue Mountains and the Cumberland Plain in which the study area is located (Tindale 1974; Attenbrow 2003).

Research by R.H. Mathews, a pioneer linguist and anthropologist, in the early twentieth-century revealed that the Darug (or 'Dharruk' people as he referred to them) inhabited an area adjoining the 'Thurawal' (Dharawal) to the south and Gundungurra and Wiradjuri to the west. Their territory extended along the coast to the Hawkesbury River and inland to Windsor, Penrith and Campbelltown; then from the mouth of the Hawkesbury River to Mount Victoria (Mathews 1901a: 140; Mathews 1901b:155;). Three distinct groups have been identified – the coastal, hinterland and mountain Darug (Attenbrow 2003:23). The study area is on the border between the coastal and hinterland groups.

5.2 The Burramatta

Aboriginal people have occupied the valley extending from Prospect to the coastline for at least twenty thousand years. One or possibly two clans occupied the land around the banks of the Parramatta River at the headwaters of Sydney Harbour (Kass, Liston & McClymont 1996:4). The surrounding area was reasonably fertile and, with the resources of the river, was able to support their living needs. Anthropological studies indicate that clan sizes varied widely, consisting of between thirty to sixty people who moved through their territory using seasonal routes to access food, shelter and other resources necessary for survival as well as ceremonial sites. Generally people camped, travelled, foraged, fished and hunted in smaller, extended family groups, coming together at times with the larger group for ceremonies and ritual combats (Attenbrow 2003:29).

The people living at the head of the Parramatta River were a clan of the Darug, known as the *Burramatta*, *Burramattagal* (sometimes written as *Boromedegal*) or *Burramattagalleon* clan. The word *burra* means eel whilst the word *matta* means creek or river and described the name of the country. The suffix “-gal” (man) or “-galleon” (woman) was added to describe a man or woman from Burramatta. (Phillip 13 Feb 1790 in HRA 1(1) cited in Attenbrow 2003; Attenbrow 2003:22-24; Kass et al. 1996:6).

Initially Parramatta was named Rose Hill, with the name “Parramatta” being formally adopted in 1792. It was a derivation of the Aboriginal name for *Burramatta* the clan, recorded as originally inhabiting this location (Attenbrow 2003:24; Phillip 13 Feb 1790 in HRA I (I): 155-61; Kass 1996:6). The Parramatta district is thought to be a linguistic and economic boundary between the coastal and inland Darug people. Although opinions differ, linguists believe that a dialect of the Darug coastal language was spoken from the Sydney peninsula as far west as Parramatta, while a hinterland dialect was spoken from Parramatta to the north, west and south (Arthur Capell 1970 cited in Attenbrow 2003: 33).

5.3 Other Sydney Clans

The earliest colonial records of the Aboriginal people encountered at Port Jackson generally refer to ‘tribes’. In modern anthropological terms however it is more likely that many of the communities they referred to were local or territorial clans. Groups that they saw hunting, fishing or gathering together were not all from the same clan (though they might have been related by marriage) but were bands or communities sharing the same land (Attenbrow 2003: 22).

Late eighteenth-century observers recorded descriptions of groups of Port Jackson Aborigines at this time. In 1798 David Collins noted that:

...each family has a particular place of residence from which is derived its distinguishing name. This is formed by adding the monosyllable Gal to the name of the place: thus the southern shore of Botany Bay is called Gwea, and the people who inhabit style themselves Gweagal (Collins 1798 cited in Attenbrow 2003: 22).

Governor Arthur Phillip was one of the earliest Europeans to see what is now known as the Parramatta district and wrote that:

...the south side of the harbour from the above side of the cove to Rose Hill, which the natives call Parramatta, the district is call Wann, and the tribe Wangal (Phillip 1790 cited in Attenbrow 2003: 22).

Watkin Tench also recorded the name ‘Parramatta’ linking it to the place at the head of today’s Parramatta River (Tench 1793 cited in Attenbrow 2003: 22). The township established in the vicinity of Rose Hill was based on its traditional name,



'Parramatta'. The name was also generally applied to the surrounding district.

Governor Phillip Gidley King made observations about the extent of Aboriginal territories to the west of Port Jackson, noting Aboriginal place names. He wrote that:

...the tribe of Cadi inhabit the south side, extending from the south head to Long Cove; at which place the district of Wanne, and the tribe of Wangal, commences, extending as far as Par-ra-mata, or Rose Hill... I have already observed that the space between Rose-Hill and Prospect-Hill is distinguished by eight different names, although the distance is only four miles (King 1793 cited in Attenbrow 2003: 22).

Places linked to the Rose Hill/Parramatta area were Wau-maille/Warmul, Malgray-matta/Mal-gra-mattar, Era-worong/A-rar-woo-rung, Carra-matta/Car-rar-mattar, Bool-bane-matta/Bul-barn-mattar, Carro-wotong/Kar-rar-wotong, Mar-ron/Mararong and Arrowanelly (alternative spellings were given). It is thought that the name Mararong was associated with the Prospect Hill area; the word War-mul referred to the place inhabited by the Cannemegal; and Arrowanelly is linked to a place named 'Island at the Flats' associated with the Bediagal (Attenbrow 2003: 22). The name Warmul is shown as Weymaly in nineteenth-century Blanket Returns. As a result of the displacement resulting from European colonisation and settlement it is likely that Aboriginal people from these locations were forced into neighbouring areas. The general location of some of these communities, as well as the language and clan groups around Port Jackson, is shown in Figure 4 below. The Burrumatta lived in the vicinity of Rose Hill and present day Parramatta, including the PNUR study area.

Documentary sources provide little detailed information about the boundaries of the traditional 'country' with which Sydney Aboriginal clans identified. Due to variances in spelling used by the authors of the various records, it is difficult to ascertain the number of clans. It is quite likely that some were not recorded (Attenbrow 2003: 28-29).

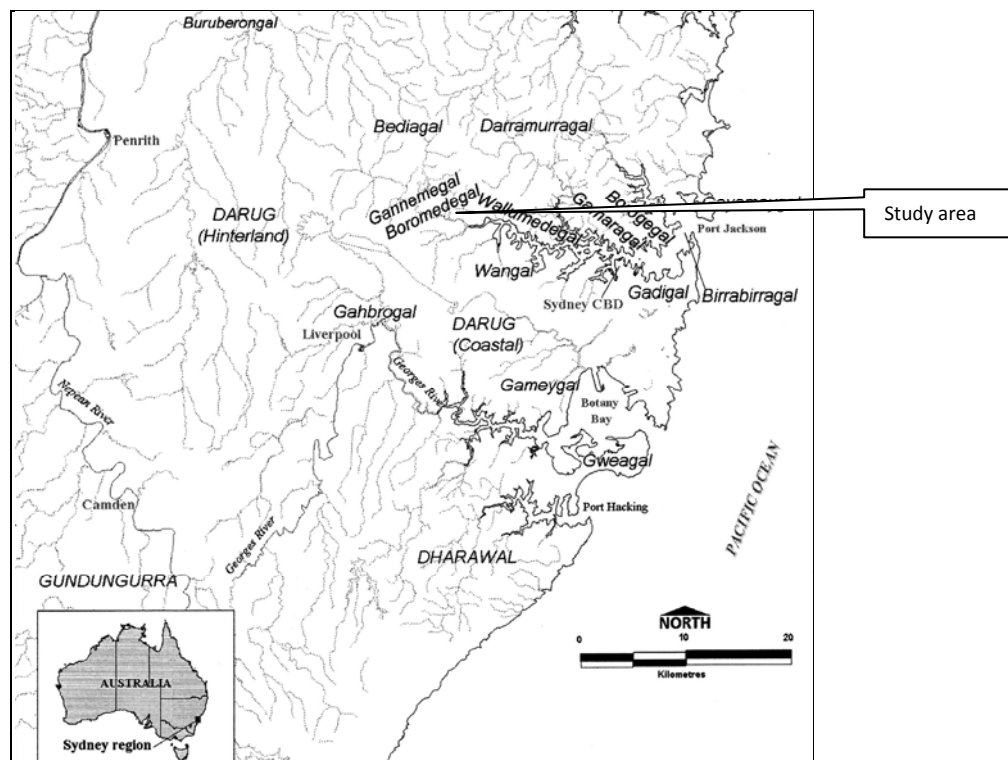


Figure 4: Map showing the territory associated with the Darug people. Parramatta is thought to be the western extremity of the territory of the Coastal Darug and the traditional land of the Burrumatta (or Boromedegal) clan of the Darug. The boundary between the adjacent language groups or dialects is not able to be identified precisely (Attenbrow 2003: 23)



5.4 Language and Dialects

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

William Dawes (1762-1836), David Collins (1756-1810) and Governor Phillip Gidley King (1758-1808) made lists of words spoken by the coastal people (Attenbrow 2003:31). Dawes, a naval officer and scientist recorded details about pronunciation, verb tenses and sentence construction. A significant characteristic of the Aboriginal language recorded in eighteenth-century colonial records is the use of the suffix ‘-gal’ (man) or ‘-galleon’ (woman). In some areas the suffix was added to a word descriptive of the country in which the community lived. (Phillip 13 Feb 1790 in Attenbrow 2003:22). For example, *Burrattagal* describes a man from Burrumatta or *Burrattagalleon* describes a woman from Burrumatta. The names of some groups of the Sydney region are associated with a local animal food source. For example the word *Burrumatta* (linked with the Parramatta district) is derived from *burra* meaning eel, *matta* meaning river (Attenbrow 2003: 28).

It was not until the late nineteenth and early twentieth-century that more methodical attempts to record Aboriginal languages were made by individuals such as R.H. Mathews, an anthropologist and linguist. By this time however there were few fluent speakers of the languages and dialects spoken in Sydney (Attenbrow 2003: 31-32). Despite the small number of informants available Mathews mapped new boundary alignments based on his research concluding that:

...a dialect of the Darug language, which was spoken on the Cumberland Plain and to the west of the Lane Cove River, was spoken on the “Sydney Peninsula” – an area he described as “extending between the south shore of Port Jackson and the north shore of Botany Bay and as far inland as Rosehill (Parramatta district)” (Attenbrow 2003: 33).

Since the 1970s anthropologists and archaeologists have presented new theories about the boundaries of linguistic and tribal groups in and around the Sydney Basin, and debate on the subject continues. The extent of the Darug languages and dialects spoken in the Sydney region as summarised by Attenbrow in *Sydney’s Aboriginal Past* is shown below (2003: 34).

Language/dialect	Boundaries
Darug, coastal dialect/s	The Sydney Peninsula (north of Botany Bay, south of Port Jackson, west to Parramatta), as well as the country to the north of Port Jackson, possibly as far as Broken Bay
Darug, hinterland dialect	The Cumberland Plain from Appin in the south to the Hawkesbury River in the north; west of the Georges River, Parramatta , the Lane Cove River and Berowra Creek

Table 1: Map showing the extent of the Darug language in the Sydney Region (Attenbrow 2003: 34)

It is essential to emphasise that due to the dearth of historical documentation and the imprecise nature of boundaries between language groups, any language or dialect boundaries mapped today are only indicative (Attenbrow 2003: 35). Further information on the Darug language including word lists and places names can be found in Val Attenbrow’s *Sydney’s Aboriginal Past: investigating the archaeological and historical records* (2003) and in J.L. Kohen’s *Daruganora: Darug Country - the place and people* (Revised Edition) (2009).



5.5 Food and Subsistence

The land around the head of the river provided the Burramatta clan with diverse plant and animal resources. The saltwater river and fresh water streams provided a rich environment where fish, turtles, crays, shellfish and molluscs could be caught or collected. Like other clans living along the river, the Burramatta people made canoes from which to fish or for transport (Kass *et al* 1996: 6). The shallow-draught, water craft made of bark and two to three metres in length were skilfully manoeuvred around the river. Bangalay (*Eucalyptus botryoides*) and species of Stringybark (*Eucalyptus agglomerata*) are thought to have been used for canoe construction (Turbet 1989:50). Colonial observers noted that coastal Aboriginal people obtained bark for canoes during excursions to Parramatta (Collins 1798: Vol 1 App 6). The large River Oak or *C. cunninghamiana* growing on the freshwater reaches of the rivers might have been used on both the coast and inland (Attenbrow 2003:112).

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

Other food resources included bull ants and the eggs and larvae of the longicorn beetle or witchetty grub (Kass *et al* 1996:6). Seasonal plant foods including fruits, tubers, shoots, flowers, berries, seeds and nectar of local trees, and grasses were also prominent in the diet. Food collection required a detailed knowledge of each plant’s properties as well as of the local environment, seasonal variations and preparation methods. Macrozamia for example is poisonous unless prepared in a particular way. Plants also provided ingredients for medicinal preparations (Brook & Kohen 1991:5). Observations made by Francis Barrallier (1773-1853) during exploration in 1802 revealed that the Parramatta people’s customs relating to food and hunting were similar to those of those practised between Nattai and the lower Wollondilly. The local environment was also the source of raw materials for tool and weapon-making, clothing and shelter (Attenbrow 2003:71).

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

A report in the *Sydney Gazette* published after the first Aboriginal Conference (see below for details of the “Aboriginal Conference”) held at Parramatta and the proposed establishment of a “Native Institution” outlined the problems facing Aboriginal communities who tried to maintain a traditional way-of life in the face of rapidly expanding settlements.

... when the weather is cold, the woods afford them little or no food, and they become a prey to many loathsome diseases which poverty entails upon the human frame. The kangaroo has almost disappeared about the Settlements; the opossum, long substituted as their chief dependence, has at length become as scarce; the roots of the earth are by nature too sparingly administered to constitute anything like a dependence to them; and the tribes of each district dare not incroach (sic) upon any other, In the summer those of the coast subsist by fishing; but in the winter, only for the occasional aid they derive from us, their situation would be equally miserable: -And whence have those evils originated, but in the clearing of the immense forests which formerly abounded in the wild animals they lived upon? This admission certainly gives them a claim upon the consideration of the British Settler; and we cannot imagine for a moment, that any one who bears that character will withhold any means that may fall within his power of forwarding the benevolent views of the Native Institution (Sydney Gazette 31 Dec 1814: 2).

5.6 European Occupation

After British settlement Aboriginal communities were dislocated with experiences varying widely. It was not long after settlement at Port Jackson in January 1788 that Governor Phillip began to search for arable land. An expedition led by Governor Phillip set out on 22 April 1788 venturing up the harbour to Duck River. They then continued on foot following the upper part of the Parramatta River on its south bank. On the 24 April the party continued along the river through land that was ‘fine open country, having very little timber, and being perfectly free from underwood’ (Kass *et al* 1996: 11-12; HRA I (I):74, 97). The party reached a point at which the ‘tide ceased to flow’ and where they were ‘stopped by large broad stones over which a fresh water stream ran’. A little to the west they reached a billabong skirted by a raised area of land that Phillip named “The



Crescent" (within Parramatta Park). From this vantage point thousands of acres of what appeared to be arable land could be seen. The party continued on to Prospect Hill or Bellevue as Phillip named it. They did not encounter Aboriginal people, however traces of Aboriginal campsites, hearths and traps were observed and their presence in the surrounding bush was felt (Kass *et al* 1996: 11-12).

Surveys of the area by the explorers revealed little about the Burramatta clan who possibly chose to observe the intruders more closely until their intentions were known. In investigating the land around the head of the river Lieutenant William Bradley recorded in his journal that his party:

... went up the Harbour to the lake or creek running to the NW above the flats, we went about 3 Miles up; to a very fine run of water, the Country on both sides pleasant & the ground apparently fit for opening with far less trouble than any in the other parts of the Harbour & the Soil good; a little above the part where the fresh water meets the tide is the place supposed would produce slate, but had been found on examination not fit for working: We tried it as Coal without success: found a great number of Cranes & other Birds about & above the flats, all very shy (Bradley c.1802: 106).

It is thought that Bradley and his party reached a location between present day Lennox Bridge and the wharf without reporting any encounters with the land's traditional owners who might have hoped that these strangers would not return (Campbell 1927: 354).

Plans for a new settlement at the head of the river were made and, as recorded by Watkin Tench, 'named by the Governor Rose Hill, 16 miles inland, (it) was established on the 3d November (1788), the soil here being judged better than that around Sydney'. Fears of retaliation from the Aboriginal inhabitants were expressed and "a small redoubt was thrown up, and a captain's detachment posted in it (in the area now known as "Parramatta Park") to protect the convicts who were employed to cultivate the ground" (Tench cited in Flannery 1996:92). However, attacks did not occur.

The settlement's establishment is well-documented and focuses mainly on what must have appeared to the traditional owners as the reckless destruction of their homeland, history and, most critically, their means of survival. In February 1790 Despatches record that the Captain's guard at Rose Hill was reduced and that 'there is nothing to be apprehended from the natives' (HRA I/I: 143). The clearing and development of the area was swift and by 16 November 1790, Tench estimated that 200 acres (80.94 ha) had been cleared and some cultivated. Seeing the landscape through European eyes he described the gently rolling 'hill and dale' as 'grand and capacious' (Tench 1793 in Fitzhardinge 1979:193, 195) and the field nearby was soon to be the location of a planned township for the agricultural settlement. By March of the following year the area of land cleared had doubled and whatever was not cultivated was thinned of trees to be used for grazing (Bradley c.1802:232; Collins 1798:Vol 1, Ch 15).

Watkin Tench is one of few diarists who recorded the reaction of the Burramatta clan to the colonist's occupation of their territory. On the 14 September 1790 while travelling in Port Jackson or on the Parramatta River he reported meeting 'two Indians' in a boat. After discussing the wounding of the Governor 'they said they are inhabitants of Rose Hill, and expressed great dissatisfaction at the number of white men who had settled in their former territories. In consequence of which declaration, the detachment at that post was reinforced on the following day' (Tench 1793: Ch 8 cited in Flannery 1996:140).

Specific information about the Burramatta clan or impact of settlement does not appear to have been recorded by the settlers. It is not known why there is little record of the Burramatta at or around Rose Hill at this time. They might have avoided the immediate area to avoid confrontation until they knew more about the intentions of the intruders. Clearly within a short period of time much of their country was changed beyond recognition. Except for the river and its resources, the environment at Rose Hill and the plant and animal resources it once supported was substantially altered. In order to survive, the Burramatta clan had little option but to move further afield to places where they could sustain themselves, providing adequate food and shelter. It is likely that they had contact with the settlers at Rose Hill but, attracting little attention to themselves, are not readily identifiable in the historical record by their clan name. In contrast Darug from the coastal parts of Sydney often accompanied exploration parties acting as interpreters and guides and who do appear in the record, often by name. However, records reflect that Aboriginal people from various clans were coming and going through Parramatta at this time.

On 2 June 1791 by order of the Governor the settlement at Rose Hill was named 'Par-ra-màt-ta' after the name used by the traditional owners (Tench 1793:132 in Fitzhardinge 1979:239). At this time Aboriginal communities living at the 'head of the harbour' were encouraged to supply the surplus from their fishing expeditions to the Parramatta settlement. A number of contemporary observers including David Collins and John Hunter recounted (although somewhat differently) an incident



involving members of the Burrumatta clan and convicts at this time. Collins' account suggested a generally friendly and mutually beneficial relationship existed with the traditional owners at this time (Collins 1798: Vol 1 Ch 13).

Since the establishment of that familiar intercourse which now subsisted between us and the natives, several of them had found it their interest to sell or exchange fish among the people at Parramatta; they being contented to receive a small quantity of either bread or salt meat in barter for mullet, bream, and other fish. To the officers who resided there this proved a great convenience, and they encouraged the natives to visit them as often as they could bring the fish. There were, however, among the convicts some who were so unthinking, or so depraved, as wantonly to destroy a canoe belonging to a fine young man, a native, who had left it at some little distance from the settlement, and as he hopped out of the way of observation, while he went with some fish to the huts. His rage at finding his canoe destroyed was inconceivable; and he threatened to take his own revenge, and in his own way, upon all white people. Three of the six people who had done him the injury, however, were so well described by some one who had seen them, that, being closely followed, they were taken and punished, as were the remainder in a few days after.

The instant effect of all this was, that the natives discontinued to bring up fish; and Bal-loo-der-ry, whose canoe had been destroyed, although he had been taught to believe that one of the six convicts had been hanged for the offence, meeting a few days afterwards with a poor wretch who had strayed from Parramatta as far as the Flats, he wounded him in two places with a spear. This act of Ballooderry's was followed by the governor's strictly forbidding him to appear again at any of the settlements; the other natives, his friends, being alarmed, Parramatta was seldom visited by any of them, and all commerce with them was destroyed. How much greater claim to the appellation of savages had the wretches who were the cause of this, than the native who was the sufferer? (Collins 1798: Vol 1 Ch 13).

Although Aboriginal law was not accepted under British law, it was observed by colonists that revenge for an injustice was permitted under Aboriginal law (Collins 1798: Vol 1 Ch 13), generally in the form of a non-fatal spearing. This was only one instance where the differences between European and Aboriginal cultures were viewed with incredulity. Problems arose between colonists and Aboriginal people when resolutions could not be reached resulting in offence or to physical conflict. What seemed an equitable solution to one party was not necessarily considered fair or reasonable to the other, ultimately leading to the escalation of conflict and acts of retribution.

5.7 Aboriginal Resistance and Conflict with Settlers

There are numerous accounts of conflict between settlers and Aboriginal people on the Cumberland Plain in the nineteenth-century. As the subject of this report is Parramatta this history will focus on events that had an impact on Aboriginal communities in the vicinity.

By the close of 1791 large parts of the Parramatta district had been cleared as had 300 acres (121.4 ha) at Toongabbie six miles (9.6km) distant, leaving only small pockets of uncleared land between (Tench 1793 in Campbell 1927:360-1). The colonisation process put pressure on the resources available to local Aboriginal communities, blocking access to traditional pathways, camping places and hunting grounds. Relations deteriorated with increasing attacks from both sides, causing injury and sometimes death. The fatal spearing of Governor Phillip's gamekeeper, John McIntyre in retribution by Pemulwuy (c.1750-1802), a warrior, was the catalyst for the 'first (but unsuccessful) punitive expedition' against Aboriginal people on the Cumberland Plain (Attenbrow 2003: 14). This was by no means Pemulwuy's last act of resistance or retaliation against the depredations that colonisation forced on them. Pemulwuy is thought to be from the Botany Bay area, north of the Georges River or the Bediagal or 'woods tribe'. With the support of other members of his community, he courageously waged armed warfare against the intruders whose settlements were spreading across the Sydney basin resulting in theft of their land and destruction of their traditional way of life (Kohen 2005:318-9).

The colony grew rapidly during the 1790s and the land surrounding Parramatta and other settlements no longer provided a 'viable subsistence base' for the traditional owners, forcing them to rely on settlements and settlers for food and other resources. Some people maintained peaceful associations with colonists providing opportunities for the latter to learn about Aboriginal culture and the environment. Rites and ceremonies continued to be held outside of the settlements and although the 'events' were observed by colonists, their significance was generally concealed (Attenbrow 2003: 15).

Conflict between Aborigines and settlers increased in 1793 and 1794 with a number reported around the Parramatta district, in particular along the routes to Prospect Hill and Toongabbie. At the same time the government, explorers and some settlers



maintained friendly relations with individual Aboriginal men, who they relied on as guides and interpreters, as well as their communities who were given freedom to come and go from settlements (Collins 1798: Vol 1 Ch 24, 26). By 1797 relations between colonists and Aborigines had deteriorated. The European population and the area of land settled had expanded to the north and south of Parramatta. Reacting to the untenable situation, bands of Aboriginal people began a guerrilla war, attacking settlers who stole and occupied their land, prevented access to their homeland and who were exploiting their precious resources. Conflict was 'waged in earnest between 1797 and 1805 during which time the farms in the Parramatta-Toongabbie area and the Hawkesbury and Georges River districts were raided' in retaliation against 'random killings and massacres by white colonists' and dispossession from traditional lands. Retaliatory attacks were made on colonists who ventured out of the settlements, away from their farms, or into the bush (Attenbrow 2003: 14, 15).

In 1797 a raid of the government farm at Toongabbie by a desperate group of Aboriginal people and the theft of grain and musket balls led to an armed pursuit by a large group of settlers. A confrontation between the armed settlers and one hundred Aboriginal warriors led by Pemulwuy erupted on the outskirts of Parramatta. Reports suggest that in attempting to capture the resistance leader, muskets were fired and spears were thrown. The resistance leader was severely injured and five Aboriginal men were killed. Receiving buck shot to his head and body Pemulwuy was taken to hospital from where he soon escaped (Collins 1798 Vol 2 Ch 3; Kohen 2005:318-9).

Governor Hunter was not ignorant of the cause of much of the conflict between settlers and Aboriginal people. He placed blame for some incidents squarely with the settlers, also acknowledging that the forces of law and order rarely took this into account. He expressed in despatches that,

Much of the hostile disposition which has occasionally appear'd in those people has been but too often provoked by the treatment which many of them have received from the white inhabitants, and which have scarcely (sic) been heard of by those who have the power bestowing punishment (Hunter in HRNSW Vol 4: 1 cited in Brook & Kohen 1991:15).

Subsequent Governors such as King were less sympathetic to the double-standards that were being imposed (Brook and Kohen 1991:16). Pemulwuy continued active resistance and further instances of conflict were reported in despatches to Britain, describing the conduct of the Aboriginal warriors led by the 'active daring leader named Pemulwye' around settlements such as Parramatta and Toongabbie (HRNSW King to Hobart 30/10/1802 HRNSW Vol 4:867). Pemulwuy evaded capture and continued his campaign of resistance to British settlement until 1802 when he was shot and killed by an armed patrol (Kass et al 1996: 49).

5.8 The Native Institution and Aboriginal Conferences at Parramatta

The orders made by the Governor leading up to the 1814 conference help in understanding some historical documents linked to this period in colonial history. It cannot be assumed that names used to identify Aboriginal communities after this date reflect pre-settlement names identifying clan or language group affiliations. Given the effect of dispossession, dislocation and dispersal from traditional land it is likely that new family groups or mixed communities formed taking up residence in remnant pockets of bushland on the outskirts of settlements and homesteads. Forced movement of people resulted in the loss of many aspects of Aboriginal culture and the emergence of new groups incorporating people from diverse areas. Reorganisation ensured the preservation of some of the core cultural practices and knowledge in Aboriginal communities (Hinkson 2001: xxiv-xxv).

Some individuals or families began living within settlements, adopting aspects of European culture. There were still intermittent outbreaks of hostilities as the Cumberland Plain became more densely settled and expanded westward. An outbreak of hostility in 1816 led to the imposition of new and tighter restrictions on the movement of Aboriginal people in and around settlements such as Parramatta. Despite expressions of sympathy with their plight, Governor Macquarie ordered the mobilisation of military detachments to 'drive away these hostile Tribes from the British Settlements'. As 'a counter balance for the restrictions', natives were offered land on which to establish themselves as settlers, as well as the necessary tools and stores for six months. As attacks on settlers were reported at the Nepean, Grose Valley, Hawkesbury and South Creek, restrictions were also imposed on Aboriginal people between Sydney and Parramatta. General Orders were that those found in the vicinity were to be detained (*Sydney Gazette* 11 May 1816:1; HRA I/9:139-145, 365; Brook & Kohen 1991: 21, 23, 32). At the same time Land Grants previously given to Aboriginal people were rescinded.

The establishment of the Native Institution, a school for Aboriginal children in Parramatta, in 1814-15 had a significant impact on the lives of some Aboriginal children and their families. The history of the Institution together with the Annual Native



Conference held in the Market Place will be discussed here as both drew Aboriginal people to the area in the first half of the nineteenth-century. Although only once a year, the conference and the feast held afterwards brought together large groups of local and distant Aboriginal clans who camped in the vicinity of Parramatta for the period surrounding the event.

The establishment of a school for the education and training of Aboriginal children was central to an assimilation policy instituted by Governor Lachlan Macquarie (1762-1824) in 1814. Although consistent with Macquarie's humanitarian interests, the idea of a 'Native Institution' was instigated by William Shelley (1774-1815), a trader and former missionary who had recently settled in Parramatta (Brook & Kohen 1991:54-5). Shelley claimed to have spoken to a 'number of tribes and individuals' who showed interest in their children attending school and on 20 August 1814 Macquarie instructed him to draw-up a proposal. Shelley began teaching four Aboriginal children to read and write from his home in Parramatta prior to the school's establishment and by December of that year rules and regulations for an institution were gazetted (Brook & Kohen 1991: 57; SRNSW Reel 6038 Frames 0295-0297). The live-in school run by Shelley was to cater for six boys and six girls for a two-year trial period. Reading and writing, as well as domestic, trade and agricultural skills were to be taught within a general framework of Christian morals and values. Land set-aside for the school's use is shown in the map reproduced below.

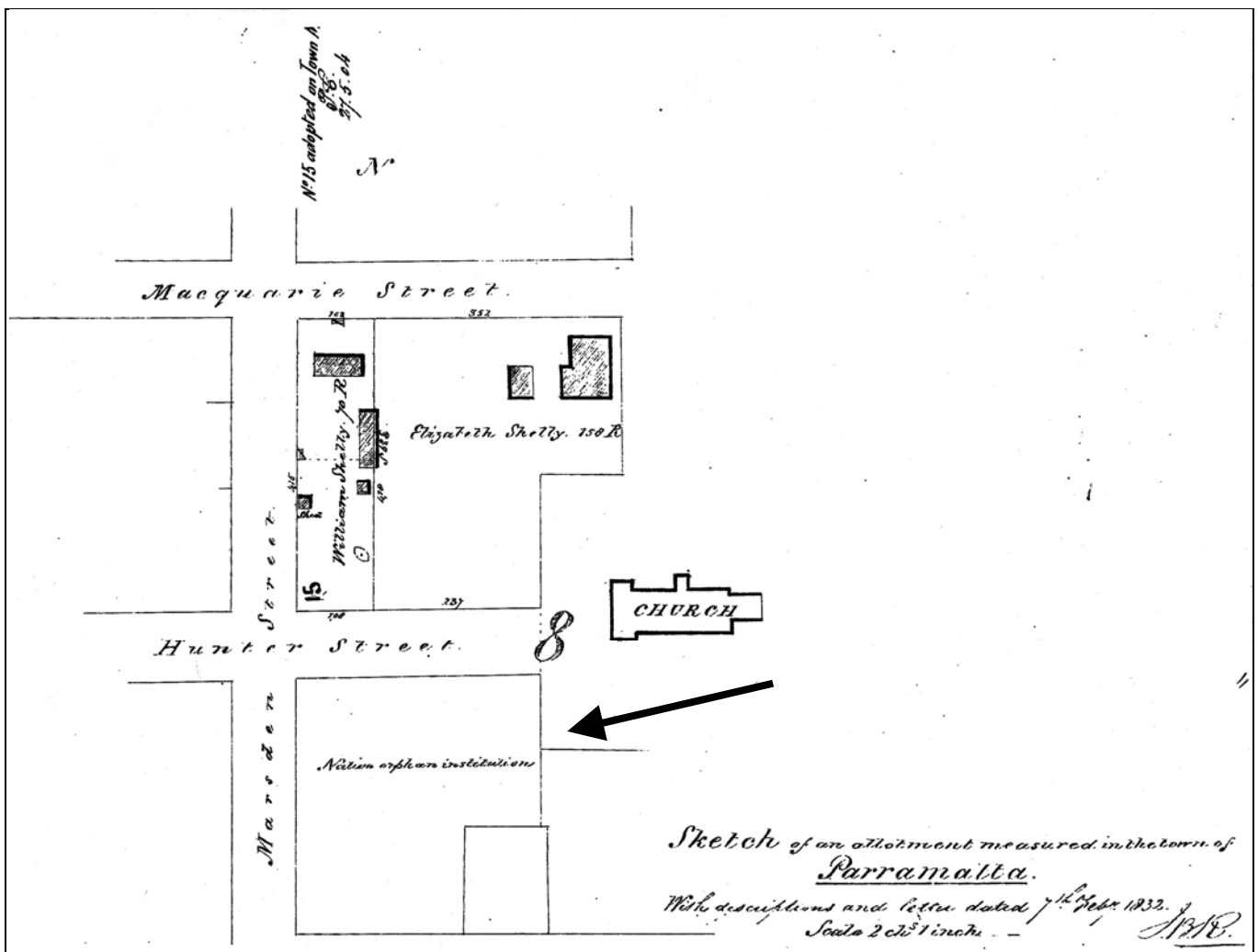


Figure 6: Site of the Native Institution shown in a plan of William and Elizabeth's Shelley's allotment to the north (SRNSW SR No 4815)



The school occupied a large site 'near the Church of Parramatta' (bounded by today's Macquarie, Marsden and Hunter Streets), in addition to a block to the south bounded by Hunter St (to the north) and Marsden St (to the west). A building at the rear of the site was built, leased or owned by the Government (Brook & Kohen 1991: 64; Kass *et al* 1996: 81). The site of the former Native Institution lies to the west of the study area

To attract students to the school Macquarie announced a meeting or conference with Aboriginal tribes to be held on 28 December 1814 at the Market Place in Parramatta. A 'feast' was planned and a committee was instructed to speak to Aboriginal people about the aims of the Institution and its administration. The conference also had another purpose. It was to be announced that Aborigines would be divided into 'District Tribes' based on their place of usual 'resort'. Tribes would then elect a Chief who the Governor would 'distinguish with an 'honorary Badge'. The nominated Chief would be responsible for resolving problems that arose within the tribe and was accountable to the Governor for their conduct. Aboriginal people wishing to become settlers would be considered for the allocation of land. The conference was to be an annual event when the parents of children attending the Institution could see them (ML Manuscripts ADD 340 27 Dec 1814 cited in Brooks & Kohen 1991:65-6). *The Sydney Gazette* recorded many of the annual conferences held at Parramatta, noting the number who attended and the names of individuals who received copper chest plates in acknowledgement of their status as chiefs or for services to the colony. The Market Place where they congregated was located in Section 26 to the west of Allotment 6 and south of the present site of the Town Hall. The site and the Native Institution nearby are indicated on the plan below.

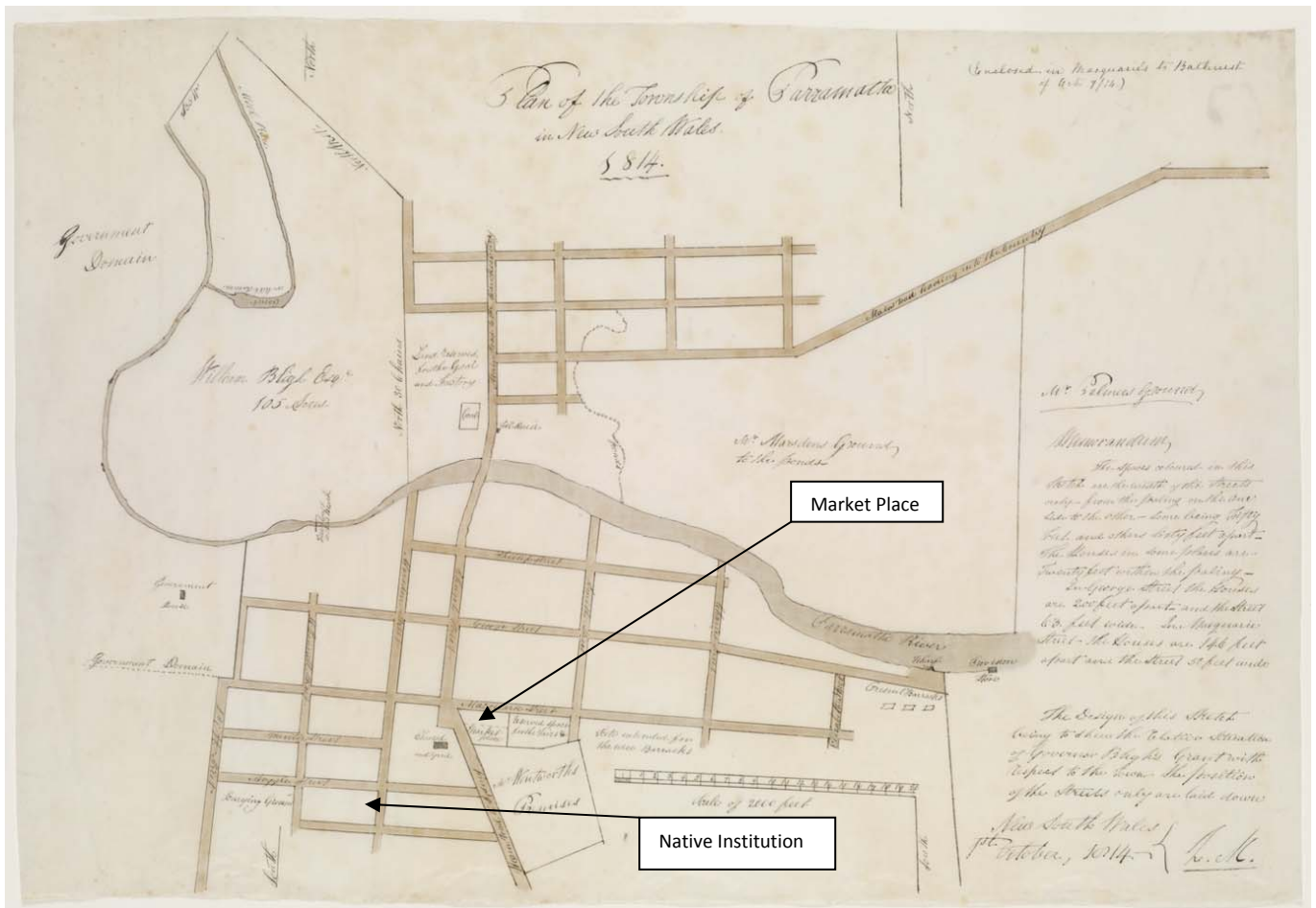


Figure 7: The site of Market Place at Parramatta where the Annual Conference and Feast instituted by Lachlan Macquarie were held from 1814 until 1835 (Plan of the Township of Parramatta in NSW, 1 Oct 1814, LM, ML M2 811.1301/1814/1)



About sixty Aboriginal people of all ages, male and female, attended the first meeting at Parramatta with the report in the *Sydney Gazette* speculating that others had not come, doubting the colonists' motives or fearing that their children would be forcibly taken away. Ultimately four children were 'yielded up to the benevolent purposes of the Institution' in addition to three children already being tutored by Shelley (*Sydney Gazette* 31 Dec 1814: 2). The Native Institution officially opened on 18 January 1815, operating at Parramatta until 1824 when it was closed (Turbet 1989: 12).

Children enrolled in 1815 were identified as being from Richmond, Prospect, Caddie (Cattai Creek), Portland Head and South Creek ranging from four to eight years of age. It is not known if the places reflect the areas in which their families settled, or was the traditional land with which their clan or band identified. Children enrolled in later years came from the Hawkesbury, Cowpastures, Botany Bay, Newcastle and Kissing Point. Lists do not identify any children from the Parramatta district or *Burramatta* people, providing evidence of the extent of disruption and dislocation that they endured due to colonisation. Aboriginal parents were reticent to relinquish their children to the school and numbers remained low. Some children were surreptitiously taken back by their parents who, it could be assumed, did not want to abandon them to a system that rejected their cultural traditions and isolated them from their family and community (Brook & Kohen 1991: 68-70, 78; SLNSW ML Manuscripts DLADD 85 Digitised). Enrolment at the school varied from year to year, with the number increasing to 23 in 1820 (Misc Papers ML DLADD 85: 8). The children's achievements were displayed to their parents at the Annual Meeting held in the Parramatta Market Place (HRA I/10: 95). A few students are recorded as having become ill and died while in the school's care (*Sydney Gazette* 29 Dec 1821). Among the diseases introduced by the settlers, smallpox had a devastating impact on the Aboriginal population with adults and children dying in significant numbers (Bellingshausen in Barratt 1981: 43). A more comprehensive account of the Native Institution can be found in J. Brook and J.L. Kohen's *The Parramatta Native Institution and the Black Town: A History* (1991).

Following the inaugural Aboriginal Conference in December 1814 they were held annually. Macquarie and a few subsequent Governors used the event as an opportunity to diffuse tensions between Aborigines and settlers, to promote the Native Institution as well as to distribute clothes and blankets. With the exception of 1815, they were held annually until 1835 (Turbet 1989:12). In Despatches Macquarie reported that natives 'from different parts of the colony up to 100 miles distant' attended the Native Meeting in the Parramatta Market Place and clothing and blankets were distributed to each Aboriginal man, woman and child (HRA I/10: 95). In 1821 a record number of some 340 Aboriginal people attended the Conference to farewell Lachlan Macquarie, one of few Governors who had made a sincere effort 'to understand and gain their trust and confidence' (Kass *et al* 1996: 81).

Reminiscences of local settlers and their families record that leading up to the Annual Conference people would set-up camp on the outskirts of Parramatta where their fires would be seen through the night. Aboriginal people from the west set up camp at Clay Cliff Creek to the south-east of the town centre; those from the south camped at the head of A'Beckett's Creek (near the junction of Woodville Road and Union St, Granville); while others would congregate on the Western Road near the toll house. In the 1830s camps were set-up 'out of Parramatta, towards Prospect'. The creeks mentioned above and the main routes into Parramatta are shown in the map below. Following the feast and blanket distribution Aboriginal people would gather on the site of the Native Institution at the corner of Macquarie and Marsden Streets (to the east of the Study Area) for a corroboree (John Taylor cited in Kass *et al* 1996: 105; Hassall 1902: 17).

The *Sydney Gazette* and later the *Sydney Herald* reported on attendance at the Annual Aboriginal Conference, presentations made by the children of the Native Institution and any other activities that took place. Although 287 Aborigines attended in January 1832 the government's interest in its continuation declined (*Sydney Gazette* 12 Jan 1832). In May 1833 a dinner was arranged by the Committee of the Female Factory and although the Conference was held, Governor Bourke did not want Aboriginal people to be encouraged to attend (Brook & Kohen 1991: 102). It was now held in May so that the distribution of clothes and blankets would coincide with winter (Kass *et al* 1996: 105). The genuine interest in the future of the Aboriginal community expressed by Governor Macquarie was not shared by Bourke and the event was now little more than a hollow goodwill gesture when blankets could be conveniently distributed (Brook & Kohen 1991: 102). The Annual Conference at Parramatta was discontinued in 1835 (Turbet 1989: 12).



Figure 8: Map of the Parish of St John showing Clay Cliff Creek, A'Becketts Creek, Duck Creek and Duck River and the main routes into the town of Parramatta. Not dated (Parish of St John, PMapMN05, Id 14063601, AO Map 277)

A notable student of the Native Institution was Maria Lock born at Richmond Bottoms on the eastern floodplain of the Hawkesbury River c1805. She was the daughter of Yarramundi, "Chief of the Richmond Tribes". Her family belonged to the Boorooberongal clan of the Darug people. Maria was an exceptional student and won first prize in an 1819 school examination ahead of 20 fellow students of the Native Institution and almost 100 non-Aboriginal students. In 1824 Maria married an illiterate convict carpenter, the first officially sanctioned union of a convict and an Aboriginal woman. They initially settled on a small farm at Black Town (Blacktown) and were employed by Rev. Robert Cartwright at Liverpool. In 1831 she petitioned for the Blacktown area deceased estate of her brother Coley (Colebee). Although opposed by Rev Cartwright, she was granted 40 acres (16.2 ha) of her own choosing near her residence (granted in her convict husband's name on her behalf). She received another 40 acres at Liverpool (again through Robert's name) in 1833 and finally also received Colebee's 30 acre (12.1 ha) Blacktown grant in 1843 ([Brooks & Kohen 1991: 256, Parry 2005])

In 1844 a further 30 acres were acquired at Blacktown. Before her death in 1854 Maria and Robert had 10 children. Upon her death in 1878 her lands were divided equally among her children and their descendants. However, in 1920, the Aboriginal Protection Board deemed her freehold land to be an Aboriginal Reserve (Plumpton) and their title was revoked.

5.9 Population Numbers

In the years following settlement there was no systematic or comprehensive documentation of the extent of the Aboriginal population, their language group or clan or the extent of traditional land with which they identified. Census and musters often linked to blanket distribution in Parramatta provide some record of families and individuals and the areas in which they were living. It is likely that they do not accurately reflect all Aboriginal people living in the district for a variety of reasons including fear of retribution for conflict with settlers, loss of their children to the Native Institution, or loss of their freedom and independence. Colonial records document many of the names of 'native guides and friendly natives' who were given rewards for their services to the colony although they are not always identified by their clan name (Misc Papers ML SLNSW DLADD 85 Digitised). The records of the Native Institution include the names of the children who attended the school, although usually only their European names and also the geographical area where their families were living. Sometimes diaries, letters and other records kept by European settlers and visitors to the colony make reference to Aboriginal communities and specific families living in and on the periphery of settlements.



Census or muster documents reflect the different ways that Aboriginal people were identified by colonial administrators. Records show that some individuals continued to identify themselves by what appear to be traditional community or clan names as well as the European names. The 1828 census recorded 49 members of the “Parramatta Tribe” including 21 men, 13 women and fifteen children who were recorded by the local Magistrate. On the Governor’s recommendation they were to be given ‘Blankets and Slops’ on the 23rd April 1828 in commemoration of ‘His Majesty’s Birthday’ (Sainty & Johnson 1985: 15).

Returns for Aborigines for 1834 provide a little more detail than previous records, and in some respects were consistent with musters of the European population at that time. The Return lists the Aboriginal and European names of individuals, estimated age, ‘Designation Tribe’, and ‘Place or District of Usual Resort’. It appears that only the adult males (14) are named on the list and wives (9) and male and female children (11) are numbered. Of a total of 34 individuals listed, twenty were from Prospect and two from Duck River, both locations close to Parramatta. Others were from Kissing Point (Ryde) and Breakfast Creek (Quaker’s Hill). Only *Mosquito* known as Will Will from Duck River gave the name of his ‘tribe’ which was *Watergoro* (Col Sec, Special Bundles, SRNSW Reel 3706). There is some inconsistency between the spelling and use of names from year to year making it difficult to trace individuals.

In 1837 both adult males and females and a few children were named on the Parramatta return with the named individuals totalling 30. The record shows the *Watergoro* from Duck River and the *Weymaly* from Prospect both in close proximity to Parramatta (Col Sec,

Special Bundles, SRNSW Reel 3706). The relationship between the *Burramatta* people noted in early settlement records and the *Watergoro* and *Weymaly* shown in Blanket Returns is not known (Col Sec, Special Bundles, SRNSW Reel 3706).

The 1840 Blanket Return taken at Parramatta recorded eight men and 12 women, 18 of whom were listed by name. Twenty children were noted however no Duck River people are recorded. Five adults and children are shown as *Weymaly* although only a few are shown as living at Prospect while others are at ‘Bungarrabee’ further west (Bungarabee, Blacktown) (Col Sec, SRNSW Reel 1927). L.E. Threlkeld compiled Returns for Aboriginal men, women and children in 1839 and 1840 showing the population taken at Parramatta as 61 and 40 respectively. The population had dropped markedly not only in Parramatta but in other districts where returns were recorded (Col Sec, Special Bundles, SRNSW Reel 3706).

The Duck River or *Watergoro* people do not appear in any Parramatta Returns after 1837. From 1840 until 1843 Returns continue to include the *Weymaly* people of Prospect, as well as people from other districts who travelled considerable distances to receive blankets. By 1845 official records suggest that there were no longer any of Parramatta’s Aboriginal inhabitants resident in the locality. Darug people continued to live on the Cumberland Plain however ‘their presence did not always attract written comment from the authorities or observers’ (Kass *et al* 1996: 106).

It is clear that the lives of people who had lived according to traditional ways in this area were catastrophically altered by European occupation and settlement over a century. Through perseverance and showing great resilience Aboriginal Australians retained some of their core traditions, customs and beliefs, passing them onto future generations despite the significant changes imposed on their lives. In 2006 Indigenous people represented 0.9% of a population of 154,158 in the Parramatta Local Government Area (2006 Census Stats www.abs.gov.au).

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

TOPOGRAPHY

STREAM ORDER MODELLING

PARRAMATTA SAND TERRACE AND SOILS

GEOLOGY

VEGETATION

CURRENT LAND USE AND DISTURBANCE



6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

6.1 Topography

The study area is within the Cumberland Plain which is characterised by low gently undulating slopes. The Cumberland Plain covers approximately 600 square kilometres. It is bordered on the west by the Blue Mountains and on the east by the Georges River and headwaters of the Parramatta Rivers. To the north is the Hornsby Plateau and to the south is the Woronora Plateau (Smith 1989a:8).

The study area is on the eastern bank of the Parramatta River within the confluence of Toongabbie and Domain Creeks. It consists of level to gently sloping alluvial floodplains sloping down towards the River. The River has incised a deep channel through the alluvial floodplain down to the sandstone bedrock. The resources provided by the Parramatta River, Toongabbie and Domain Creeks and other creeks within the area would have contributed to a rich and varied eco-system providing sustenance and shelter for Aboriginal people. As well as providing excellent water resources and ecological diversity, particularly in the drier months, the well watered valleys and drainage basins within and surrounding Parramatta would have facilitated inter and intra-territory movement, for the local and visiting Aboriginal groups.

The study area is on the northern edge of the Parramatta CBD. It comprises some residential development with associated infrastructure and public facilities such as Cumberland Hospital, Parramatta Gaol, Area Health's Linen Service, sporting fields, the Parramatta Leagues Club and Oval.

6.2 Stream Order Modelling

Stream order can be used to predict Aboriginal landuse patterns. Toongabbie Creek would be classified as a third order stream whilst Domain Creek would be a first order stream.

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

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

Therefore, the landscape in the vicinity of the confluence of a first and third order stream with the Parramatta River could be predicted to contain high archaeological potential.

6.3 Parramatta Terrace Sand and Soils

A fluvial sand terrace (Parramatta Terrace Sand) has been recorded along the banks of the Parramatta River and throughout much of Parramatta, as shown in Figure 8 (Mitchell 2008; Casey & Lowe 2009). Culturally, this terrace sand would have been a valuable environmental asset for Aboriginal people. Mitchell (2008:16) suggests that the Parramatta terrace sand would have contained a number of important resources for Aboriginal people to utilise. These resources would have included waterholes with fresh fish, areas for shelter, fuel, food and shell resources. Sandy soils are also suitable for burials and provide a good location for campsites. Excavations in the sand terrace (McDonald 2005 & Comber 2010a; 2010b), have confirmed the importance of the terrace sand to the Darug people. Stratified deposits including artefacts and other evidence of occupation have been recorded with dates indicating possible Pleistocene occupation (McDonald 2005 & Comber 2010b).

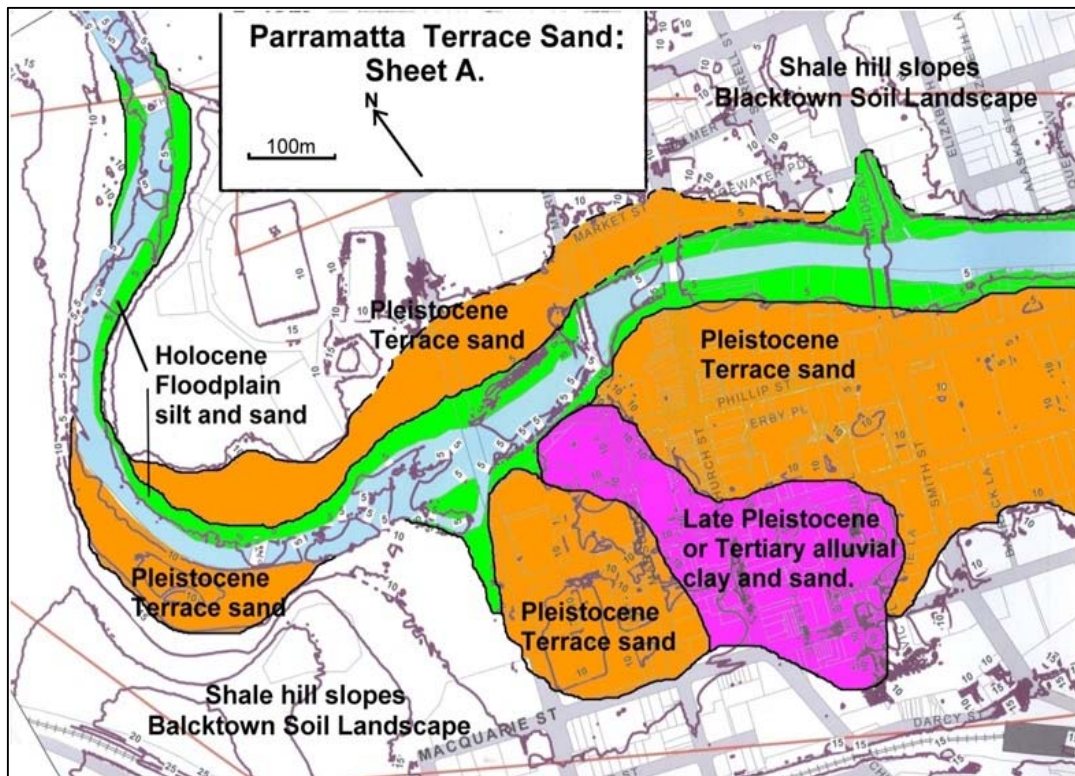


Figure 9: Showing the Indicative distribution of the Parramatta Terrace Sand at the time of European settlement. Study area indicated by arrow. Boundary edged in black (Mitchell 2008)

Mitchell's (2008) mapping concentrated on the Parramatta CBD with only a brief assessment of the area containing the study area. His brief mapping of North Parramatta reveals a Holocene floodplain and not the Parramatta Terrace Sand. However, more detailed mapping is required to confirm whether the Parramatta Terrace Sand extends into North Parramatta. Casey & Lowe (2014) monitored excavation for subsurface cable installation for Endeavour Energy at the Cumberland Hospital. They recorded fill to depths of 1200mm which overlay possible alluvial deposits, but not the Parramatta Terrace Sand. However, whether the sands were Holocene floodplain or Pleistocene Terrace Sands would not have been important to Aboriginal people. Sandy soils providing resources located near a water source would have been important to Darug resource procurement strategies.

6.4 Geology

The Cumberland Plain overlies the Wianamatta Group of Shales. Within the study area the Wianamatta Group of shales overlies Hawkesbury Sandstone (sandstone with some quartz). Hawkesbury Sandstone provides materials suitable for the manufacture of ground edge axes and weathers to provide rockshelter suitable for habitation or surfaces for art.

Surrounding the study area is the Liverpool Sub-group which includes Bringelly Shales, Ashfield Shales and Minchinbury Sandstone (Sydney 1:250,000 Geological Map). This sub-group is comprised of shales, carbonaceous claystones, claystones laminate, fine to medium grained lithic sandstone and some coal (Smith 1989a:8).

Several locations on the Cumberland Plain within the vicinity of the study area contain suitable material for stone tool manufacture, such as silcrete. Silcrete outcrops are located at Luddenham approximately 15kms to the southwest, Plumpton approximately 25kms to the north-west, St Clair approximately 15km to the north-west and Erskine Park approximately 10km to the north-west. Other material used in the manufacture of stone tools on the Cumberland Plain, includes chert, tuff, quartz, basalt and quartzite, which are located within the Rickabys Creek Formation, 25kms north-west of the survey area (Clarke & Jones 1988, Smith 1989a:9-11 & 1989:6-7). It is also likely that volcanic materials were obtained from the dolerite quarry just east of Prospect Reservoir.

Lithic materials such as quartz and tuff are suitable for small tool manufacture whilst sandstone is suitable for axes. The sandstone also provides shelter and a suitable surface for sharpening axes.



6.5 Vegetation

The vegetation of the Cumberland Plain was mapped by Benson (1979) and the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service (2002). Historically, the undulating slopes of Western Sydney would have supported a tall open-forest of Cumberland Plain Woodland.

The area was mapped by Benson (1981) as being woodland of *Eucalyptus moluccana* (Grey Box) in association with *Eucalyptus tereticornis* (Forest Red Gum). The understorey included *Acacia parramattensis*, *Acacia floribunda* and other acacia sp., *Casuarina cunninghamiana* (River Oak), *Bursaria spinosa* (Sweet Bursaria, Blackthorn) and *Hardenbergia violacea* (False Sarsparilla) with grasses of *Themeda australis* (Kangaroo Grass) and *Lomandra longifolia*.

Such a vegetation community would have provided a variety of edible plant species and plants suitable for artefact manufacture. For example, the tall Grey Box and Red Gum's would have provided bark to make coolamons, shields or canoes, whilst the long Lomandra leaves would have been used for basket weaving (Baker et al 1986:136). Acacia gum was a sweet nutritious food source and the acacia seeds were a valuable source of protein. The dried seeds were ground between stones and baked as a bread/damper and the green seeds eaten like peas (Low 1992:86). In addition Cumberland Plain vegetation provided habitat for a variety of marsupials and birds whilst the Parramatta River and associated creeks would have provided fish, eels, crustaceans, waterfowl etc.

Current vegetation throughout the PNUR consists of landscaped gardens and sporting fields with introduced lawn, grasses, exotic vegetation and some native regrowth.

6.6 Current land use and disturbance

Settlement within Parramatta occurred very soon after settlement. In September 1788 Governor Phillip established a settlement at "The Crescent" which is now located within Parramatta Park. Settlement soon extended beyond The Crescent with the Town of Parramatta being established, whilst The Crescent formed the nucleus of the Government Domain. Parramatta Park was gazetted in 1858 after subdivision of The Government Domain. Portions of Parramatta Park and the former Government Domain are located within the Sports and Leisure Precinct whilst The Crescent is immediately to the west of the study area on the opposite side of the River. A detailed history of the development of the study area is described in Britton & Morris 1999. Following is a brief summary of the development of each precinct:

Cumberland Precinct

Changes to the natural environment of the Cumberland Precinct began shortly after settlement at The Crescent. It was initially used for agriculture whilst the river, which flowed intermittently was dammed to provide a more permanent water supply (Stedinger 2003). Public buildings such as the Girls Orphan School, the Female Factory and a gaol were constructed by 1810 (Kass, Liston & McClymont 1996:59), with construction on a new (the existing) gaol commencing in 1836 (Kass, Liston & McClymont 1996:100). Samuel Marsden was granted land in the northern portion of the study area where he constructed a house for his daughter, planted grape vines and constructed a watermill with mill race (Britton & Morris 199:6; Kass, Liston & McClymont 1996:61). By 1850 The Female Factory had been converted for use as the "Parramatta Lunatic Asylum" with later extensions and landscaping. The site was eventually consolidated and became Cumberland Hospital. Figure 9 shows the existing buildings and landscaping within the Cumberland Precinct. As indicated by Casey & Lowe (2014) extensive filling of the site occurred to allow the buildings to be constructed above the floodplain. This fill would have protected any Aboriginal sites which once existed within the study area.

Sports and Leisure Precinct

This precinct has undergone major changes commencing with the Government Farm in 1788. In 1847 the Cumberland Turf Club formed a racecourse which eventually became Cumberland Oval. The present Parramatta Stadium which opened in 1986 was built on the site of the Cumberland Oval. The Parramatta Swimming Pool and parking lot are located within the precinct. This precinct includes Parramatta Park which contains the Old Kings Oval and Doug Walters Pavilion, the rear of the swimming pool carpark, the open green spaces beside the Parramatta River and the archaeological evidence of the Government Farm and Caley's Botanical Garden.

7.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

SYDNEY REGION

PARRAMATTA

PARRAMATTA PARK

CUMBERLAND PRECINCT

SPORTS & LEISURE PRECINCT



7.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

7.1 Sydney Region

Many surveys have been undertaken in the Sydney region which indicate the richness of the archaeological resources and which provide information about Aboriginal occupation within the region. In particular, Attenbrow (2003) has excavated a range of sites within the Sydney Basin. The aim of her study was to identify local geographic variation and temporal changes in the subsistence patterns and material culture of the people of this area. She excavated sites at Balmoral Beach, Cammeray, Castle Cove, Sugarloaf Point (Lane Cove River), Darling Mills State Forest, Winston Hills, Vacluse and Cumberland Street in the Rocks. Dates for initial occupation range from approximately 10,000 years BP at Darling Mills to approximately 450 years BP at Cumberland Street, the Rocks.

One of the oldest dated occupations for the Sydney region is 15,000 years BP from the Shaws Creek K2 rockshelter on the Nepean River (Kohen 1984; Nanson et al. 1987). The dates obtained by Kohen (1984) and Attenbrow (2003) must be considered in association with environmental data related to sea level rises. The Sydney region that we know today was vastly different to the landscape of 15,000 years ago.

The period of maximum glaciation was 15,000 – 18,000 years BP. Therefore the date of the K2 rockshelter and Attenbrow's Darling Mills site indicate that Aboriginal people lived throughout a period of extreme environmental change. During this period, sea levels were up to 130m below current sea levels (Nutley 2006: 1). About 10,000 years ago, as temperatures began rising at the end of the last ice age, the polar ice started melting and sea levels rose. The rising sea levels forced people to abandon coastal sites and move inland, with the result that the oldest coastal sites were inundated.

By about 6,000 years ago, rising water levels had flooded the coastal plain forming the Sydney landscape that we know today. The vast majority of sites in the Sydney region date to around 5,000 years BP, after sea levels had stabilised. Whilst research into submerged indigenous sites is now being undertaken (Nutley 2006), there are few sites in the Sydney area that are known to date beyond 10,000 years BP. Therefore research undertaken to date has focused on subsistence patterns and cultural change, e.g. Attenbrow (2003).

Many archaeological surveys have been conducted within the Sydney region, particularly on the Cumberland Plain, in relation to Environmental Impact Statements. As a result of those studies, which were occasioned by the burgeoning urban expansion extending into the Cumberland Plain, the NPWS recognised the need for a coherent study of the area to fully assess the impact of urbanisation on the natural and cultural heritage of the Cumberland Plain. Smith (1989a) was commissioned by the NPWS to undertake an Aboriginal Site Planning Study to be utilised in the management of Aboriginal sites on the Cumberland Plain. Prior to her study, 307 sites had been recorded on the Cumberland Plain, mainly open artefact scatters (297) with four scarred trees, one carved tree, four axe-grinding grooves and a Mission site (the Blacktown Institute). Smith (1989a:2) added 79 open sites and 29 isolated finds from field surveys related to her study.

Smith's (1989a:3) analysis indicated that site location and site densities were influenced by the availability of water and raw materials. She concluded that other factors such as topography, natural vegetation and soil types did not influence site location.

She also identified that the majority of sites recorded have been in the northern sector of the Cumberland Plain, during site surveys of areas threatened by development (Smith 1989a:21). Her field studies (1989a & 1989b:10) confirmed that site densities in the southern Cumberland Plain appear to be lower overall to site densities on the northern Plain.

Since Smith's study, there has been a dramatic increase in development in Western Sydney, resulting in a great deal more archaeological survey and excavation (Comber 1990, 1991, 2006; McDonald 1997, 2002 & 2005a). This further work has indicated the complexity in the archaeological record of the area that was not previously recognised. For example, sites on permanent water are more complex than sites on ephemeral drainage lines with major confluences being prime site locations. However, McDonald (2005a) reports that archaeological sites are found in a range of landscapes and that their condition is dependent on the amount of impact from European land practices.

McDonald's 2005a report demonstrates the dynamic nature of stone tool technologies on the Cumberland Plain. She reviewed previous work within a theoretical framework to identify intra and inter-regional variation. She not only identified change over time in the stone tool technology, but the manner in which "stone technologies were organised in relation to landscape" (McDonald 2005a: np). Her report provides a framework to tentatively date sites through technological analyses and to identify cultural changes.



Her study also indicated that the surface representation of a site on the Cumberland Plain does not necessarily reflect the actuality of that site. Of the excavations conducted by her, sub-surface deposits were present even when there was no surface indication of a site. According to McDonald (2005a:5), “despite artefacts being rare or completely absent on the surface at each of the sites investigated, all six sites were found to contain intact archaeological deposit. Almost 500 square metres were excavated during this Project and almost 35,000 artefacts retrieved.” McDonald (2005) also considers that Aboriginal occupation was focussed on the major river systems and characterised by mobility between a small number of sites. As a result of her various studies and applying stream order modelling she (2005) further predicts that the density and complexity of archaeological sites will vary according to stream order, as follows:

- Fourth-Fifth order creeks (or rivers): Archaeological evidence will be more complex and possibly stratified, reflecting more permanent and repeated occupation on major creeks.
- Third order creeks: Evidence of more frequent occupation such as knapping floors or higher artefact densities will be found in the lower reaches of tributary creeks.
- Second order creeks: Sparse archaeological evidence will be found which indicates occasional use and/or occupation.
- First order creeks: Due to the intermittent nature of water flow only very sparse evidence would be found in the headwaters of upper tributaries such as background artefact scatter.

Kohen’s studies at Penrith confirmed the important of fifth order creeks and rivers. He recorded over 50 sites in the Penrith area which included open artefact scatters, axe grinding grooves and rock shelters. Kohen (1997:7) indicates that sites occurring throughout the Penrith area “are particularly likely to occur adjacent to the rivers and creeks. The distribution of raw materials associated with the manufacture of stone tools suggests that chert and basalt were carried or traded east from the river gravels and that silcrete was traded or carried from sources near South Creek and Eastern Creek, west towards the Nepean flood plain”.

Comber (2010d&e) also recorded open artefact scatters and scarred trees within the Cumberland Plain. She undertook excavation at two sites at Penrith Lakes known as Camenzulis (2010e) and PL9 (2010d). At PL9 she retrieved more than 1,500 artefacts, including backed blades and an edge ground axe. Her work confirms McDonald’s (2005) and Kohen’s predictive model that sites are more likely to occur adjacent to the rivers and high order creeks. These excavations (Comber 2010d&e) at Penrith Lakes further indicates the possibility that sub-surface archaeological deposits will remain despite disturbance by non-Aboriginal activities and the complexity of such sites. Surveys (2006c & d) undertaken prior to the excavations recorded the areas as being disturbed by agricultural activities. They had been grazed, ploughed, planted with crops and a dam constructed. Only a small number of artefacts were recorded on the surface but over 2,500 artefacts retrieved during excavation.

A survey undertaken by Comber (2008) and subsequent excavations undertaken by Stening (2011) at Doonside demonstrated that although no surface artefacts were recorded (Comber 2008) substantial subsurface deposits did exist on the site with over 1,000 artefacts being recovered from a highly disturbed context (Stening 2011). This site was located beside Eastern Creek an important 4th or 5th order creek. It is an important watershed with extensive evidence of Aboriginal occupation

7.2 Parramatta

In the broader Parramatta region the previously oldest dated site is a rock shelter on Toongabbie Creek, which has been dated to around 5,500 years BP (Attenbrow 1992:4 – 5). Other sites within a 10km radius of the Parramatta LGA date to within 10,000 years BP with the majority within the last 3-5,000 years (Dallas 2003:27).

Excavations undertaken at Parramatta by Haglund (2005) indicate that Aboriginal artefacts were located despite the impact of later development. Artefacts were located in a disturbed context at the Parramatta Children’s Court site on the corner of George and O’Connell Streets, immediately to the south of the present study area (AHIMS 45-6-2679). This excavation identified the artefacts within a portion of the Parramatta Terrace Sand, a significant alluvial terrace which contains significant Aboriginal archaeological deposits (see section 5.3). Haglund (2005:16-17) suggested that people camped or moved across the Parramatta area in small family groups with no evidence of extensive or repeated visits.

Haglund (2006 & 2007) also undertook testing at the Parramatta Old Hospital Site bounded by George and Marsden Streets, beside the Parramatta Children’s Court site. This site (AHIMS 45-6-2746) is also located on the Parramatta Terrace Sand. Haglund (2005) concluded that this area was a more preferred site to the Children’s Court site and that there may have been some difference in activities. However she concludes that this area was never a major campsite, but was visited sporadically by groups who manufactured artefacts at this site (Haglund 2007:36).

McDonald undertook excavations on the Parramatta Terrace Sand on the north-eastern corner of George and Charles Streets,



Parramatta (2005a & b) at site CG1. Aboriginal artefacts were initially uncovered during historical archaeological investigations. Subsequent excavations for evidence of Aboriginal occupation uncovered numerous stone artefacts within the alluvial sand deposits at the site.

McDonald excavated another area opposite CG1, known as CG3, located at 101A-105 George Street, Parramatta. She also excavated an area known as the RTA site beside CG3 (McDonald 2005c), located at 109-113 George Street, known as the RTA site G1 (McDonald 2005d). These were both important excavations, located on the Parramatta Sand Terrace, yielding a large number of artefacts. In particular the RTA site G1 provided a sequence of occupation dating from the late Pleistocene through to the mid-Holocene. The RTA site is located at the corner of George Street and Argus Lane and bound by Union Street to the south. Although the site had been heavily impacted by development, the sub-surface deposits revealed an “accumulation of evidence from multiple occupation episodes, no doubt occurring at many different times” (McDonald 2005b:147). Radiocarbon dating provided a range of dates indicating continuous occupation of the site. The most important date showed that the alluvial sand terrace was possibly first occupied during the late Pleistocene period, about 30,000 years BP and then showed various phases of occupation (McDonald 2005c:107). The earliest date obtained from this site, 30,000 years BP, provides the oldest date for the Sydney Basin (McDonald 2005:4).

In 2005 Austral Archaeology undertook an assessment of 95-101 George Street, Parramatta and identified the potential for subsurface deposits to exist at that location. Austral Archaeology (2007) subsequently undertook salvage excavation of the site, which is also located on the Parramatta Terrace Sand. A total of 601 whole and broken flakes were recovered. The investigation proposed that the raw materials for the artefacts had been sourced both locally and from other regions with the prime local source being the gravel load of the Parramatta River. Other sources included the Olympic Village site, about 5km to the east, sandstone bodies to the north and west and the Nepean River, about 25km away (Austral Archaeology 2007:ii). This investigation also concluded that much of the artefact production had occurred *in situ*. Importantly, the study found that historic ground disturbance had left much of the archaeological deposit intact and the artefacts were found within the sandy matrix of the sand terrace that lay below the phases of historic occupation. The report also concluded that this is the same alluvial sand terrace identified by McDonald (2005b & c) and that the assemblage from 101 George Street is probably part of the site identified by McDonald to encompass both CG1 and RTA-G1 (McDonald 2005). Another finding from this study was the conclusion that sites closer to the Parramatta River represented occupational sites that were regularly used. Sites further from the river appeared to be more ‘opportunistic or casual use knapping events’ (Austral Archaeology 2007: iv).

In 2009 monitoring of excavations in Macquarie Street by AHMS (2009) on behalf of Sydney Water were conducted in an area predicted to contain the Parramatta Terrace Sand opposite Civic Place and at the intersection with Charles Street. The Sydney Water excavations, which were between 1.3m and to 2m in depth (AHMS 2009:18, 23) were subject to archaeological monitoring but no evidence of the terrace sand or Aboriginal objects were found (AHMS 2009:39).

Work undertaken by Haglund (2008) and Comber (2010a) at 142-154 Macquarie Street, Parramatta (the Cumberland Press site) and Comber (2010b) at 140 Macquarie Street, Parramatta (Endeavour Energy site) confirmed the location of the Terrace Sand, and provided additional information about occupation on the Terrace Sand. Both of these sites appear to be an extension of the sites excavated by McDonald (2005b & c) and Austral (2005).

The excavations at 140 Macquarie Street (Comber 2010) identified the Parramatta Terrace Sand, partially under a clay bed, across the full extent of the site but dipping lower on the approaches to Macquarie Street and Argus Lane. The Terrace Sand came to within 2m of the surface along the western border of the property. There was some evidence that the sand was dipping lower towards Macquarie Street but in the direction of George Street. Continuation of the sand body in this area is consistent with the predictions of Mitchell (2008). These excavations uncovered intact *in situ* archaeological deposits and approximately 60 artefacts.

In 2009 excavations at 15 Macquarie Street in the western portion of the CBD (Comber 2010) recovered approximately 350 whole and broken flaked artefacts in clay soils. This site was located immediately to the south of the study area, diagonally opposite the Parramatta Park Macquarie Street Gate House and was located on a continuation of the Murray Gardens Creek. This confirms evidence of Aboriginal occupation surviving across the CBD.

In 2013 Comber undertook excavations within the footpath at Harris Street and adjacent to Robin Thomas Reserve in respect of underground electricity cabling. These excavations identified the Parramatta Terrace Sand and uncovered 59 artefacts, including several pieces of worked glass.

The studies undertaken within Parramatta to date indicate the archaeological importance of the Parramatta Terrace Sand and



the possibility for artefacts and subsurface *in situ* deposits to remain despite later urban development.

A number of sites have been recorded to the north and north west of the study area. Site Cards were requested from AHIMS for the following sites but to date site cards had not been received and therefore full details about each site cannot be provided at this stage:

Three sites in Toongabbie recorded by Jo McDonald (45-5-2295, 45-5-2296, 45-5-2297) are located approximately 1.5 km to the north west of the study area.

Four axe grinding grooves were recorded by Guider on a rock outcrop in Toongabbie Creek, approximately 600 metres to the north west of the study area (AHIMS 45-5-1110). However Dallas and Irish (45-5-1110 AHIMS Site Card) later inspected these axe grinding grooves and determined that they were not Aboriginal grinding grooves.

Toongabbie Cave (AHIMS 45-5-0835) is a rock shelter with deposit recorded by Guider approximately 1.5km to the north of the study area. Guider recorded further axe grinding grooves along Toongabbie Creek at Winston Hills (AHIMS 45-5-0841). These are located approximately 1.5km to the west of the study area. Guider also recorded an open artefact scatter (AHIMS 45-5-0843) on Finlayson's Creek approximately 500m to the south west of the study area.

A Potential Archaeological Deposit (AHIMS 45-5-3349) was recorded by McDonald approximately 500m to the northwest of the study area. Another Potential Archaeological Deposit (AHIMS 45-5-2971) was recorded by Dallas approximately 1.5km to the north west of the study area.

AHMS (2013) prepared a preliminary assessment of the Cumberland Precinct and recorded 29 sites within 1km of the Cumberland Precinct. The majority of these sites were close to the Parramatta River and comprised the full range of site types including artefact scatters, rock shelters, grinding grooves and scarred trees (AHMS 2013:18-19).

7.3 Parramatta Park

As indicated in Figure 3 a portion of Parramatta Park is located within the Sports and Leisure Precinct. One known site, which has been removed since it was first recorded was located within the portion of Parramatta Park within the Sports & Leisure Precinct. A scarred tree (AHIMS 45-5-0277) was initially recorded by Cook in 1981. It was recorded as being located 60m north of the grandstand on the western side at Cumberland Oval, within (or just outside) the North Precinct. Attenbrow (1994; 1996a) was unable to locate the scarred tree and very few details are recorded. Attenbrow records this as Location A (Attenbrow 1996b:3). The site inspection for the present project also failed to locate the tree. It appears that it may have been removed during construction of the Parramatta Stadium (Attenbrow 1996b:3).

Other sites recorded within Parramatta Park demonstrate the richness of the archaeological record for the area and the possibility that the study area was once an important area for the Darug. Figure 9 below shows the location of sites recorded within Parramatta Park.

Attenbrow (1996a; 1996b: 4; AHIMS 45-5-762) also recorded an artefact scatter with two scarred trees located on the ridge overlooking the Crescent, within the Domain Precinct. The scatter consisted of 25 artefacts exposed in eroded areas and located approximately 120m to the north of the Boer War Memorial. The artefacts include bondi points, flakes, cores and flaked pieces. The two scarred trees are located to the west of the artefact scatter (1994: 8). This is recorded by Attenbrow as Location B (1996b: 4) on Figure 9 below.

A single stone artefact was located in the underfloor deposit within the Dairy Cottage at a depth of approximately 30cm during historical excavations. No further information is recorded. Attenbrow (1996b: 8) records this as Location C. There does not appear to be a registered AHIMS site associated with this find.

A single flaked stone artefact was recorded by Varman in 1993 in an area of exposed ground on the ridge overlooking The Crescent (Attenbrow 1994:9) in the Domain Precinct. It is recorded as being to the north of the road and to the west of the wooden fence surrounding Government House and associated buildings. No further information is recorded and there does not appear to be a registered AHIMS site associated with this find. Attenbrow (1996b: 9) records this as Location D.

A single silcrete flaked piece was recorded by Attenbrow (1994: 10) on the ridge overlooking The Crescent. It was located approximately 47m west of the corner of the "cream building in the Government House complex" (Attenbrow 1996b: 10), in the Domain Precinct. There does not appear to be a registered AHIMS site associated with this find. Attenbrow (1996b: 10) records this as Location E.



Attenbrow and Kondek (1996b: 12) recorded two silcrete flaked pieces on exposed ground approximately 40cm from the base of a eucalyptus tree. The artefacts were located between the road and railway adjacent to the car park north of the Macquarie Street gate (1996b: 12), within the Domain Precinct. There does not appear to be a registered AHIMS site associated with this find. Attenbrow (1996b: 12) records this as Location G.

Guider (AHIMS 45-5-1065) further identified an artefact scatter comprising silcrete, “indurated mudstone” (sic) and quartz with rock oyster (*Saccostrea commercialis*) shell. The site was located on an area of exposed ground overlooking the south bank of the Parramatta River near the flat stones (near the weir between Parramatta Park and the Parramatta Leagues Club), within the River Front Precinct.

Attenbrow (1996b: 11) recorded a silcrete flaked piece on the eastern bank of Domain Creek, approximately 5m from the creek bank and approximately 200m west of Parramatta River. There does not appear to be a registered AHIMS site associated with this find. Attenbrow (1996b: 11) records this as Location F.

Attenbrow and Kondek (1996b: 13) also recorded a single silcrete flaked piece in an area of exposed ground in the centre of a grassed playing field on the western side of Domain Creek. The site is located approximately 60m to the west of Domain Creek and approximately 320m to the west of Parramatta River. There does not appear to be a registered AHIMS site associated with this find. Attenbrow (1996b: 13) records this as Location H.

Attenbrow and Kondek (1996b:14) located a further site comprising a silcrete core and a chert flake. The artefacts were recorded in two separate areas of exposed ground approximately 7m apart in the grassed playing field to the west of Domain Creek. The site is located approximately 60m to the west of Domain Creek and approximately 320m to the west of Parramatta River. There does not appear to be a registered AHIMS site associated with this find. Attenbrow (1996b: 14) records this as Location I.

A further Aboriginal site was recorded by Attenbrow and Kondek (1996b: 15). The site comprised three silcrete flakes and flaked pieces located in a large area of exposed ground to the north east of the toilet block adjacent to Jessie Street and south west of Coleman Oval. The site is located approximately 60m to the west of Domain Creek and approximately 400m to the west of Parramatta River. There does not appear to be a registered AHIMS site associated with this find. Attenbrow (1996b: 15) records this as Location J.

An artefact scatter comprising four flaked silcrete artefacts were located in an area of exposed ground within 30cm of the base of a Melaleuca tree. The location is given as “Far northwestern corner of Park” (Attenbrow 1996b: 16), approximately 50m west of Domain Creek and approximately 130m west of Parramatta River. From the plan provided by Attenbrow (1996b: 2), it appears that this site is located to the north of Coleman Oval. There does not appear to be a registered AHIMS site associated with this find. Attenbrow (1996b: 16) records this as Location K.

A quartzite core was located by Attenbrow and Kondek (1996b: 17) on an informal foot track which runs parallel to Domain Creek, on the eastern side of the creek at the northern end of the park. The site is located approximately 4m east of Domain Creek and approximately 240m west of Parramatta River. There does not appear to be a registered AHIMS site associated with this find. Attenbrow (1996b: 17) records this as Location L.

A single silcrete flake was recorded by Attenbrow and Kondek in an area of exposed ground at the “northern end of the Park, eastern side of road near road junction” (1996b: 18) and approximately 140m east of Domain Creek and approximately 160m west of the Parramatta River. From the plan provided by Attenbrow (1996b: 2), it appears that this site is located just outside the Dairy Precinct, in the Paddocks Precinct. There does not appear to be a registered AHIMS site associated with this find. Attenbrow (1996b: 18) records this as Location M.

Attenbrow and Kondek recorded an artefact scatter comprising two silcrete flakes, one silicified wood flake and an “indurated mudstone” (sic) core (1996b: 19). The scatter was located in an area of exposed ground within the road embankment on the eastern side of the western arm of Bynes Avenue (1996b: 19). It is approximately 100m to the east of Domain Creek and approximately 120m to the west of Parramatta River. There does not appear to be a registered AHIMS site associated with this find. Attenbrow (1996b: 19) records this as Location N.

A chert core was recorded by Attenbrow and Kondek (1996b: 20) in an area of exposed ground on the western side of the eastern arm of Bynes Avenue. It is located approximately 50m to the west of Parramatta River and approximately 150m to the



east of Domain Creek. There does not appear to be a registered AHIMS site associated with this find. Attenbrow (1996b: 20) records this as Location O.

Steele (1999: 26; AHIMS 45-5-2463) recorded a single red silcrete flake which was located within a small area of exposed ground on the eastern side of Domain Creek, opposite Coleman Oval. The site is located approximately 10m to the east of Domain Creek and approximately 250m to the west of Parramatta River. This find was situated approximately 35m south of an isolated find recorded by Attenbrow (Location L). Steele records this as Location R.

A further isolated find comprising a silcrete flaked piece was recorded by Steele (1999: 27; AHIMS 45-5-2464) in sediment excavated for a picnic shelter posthole. The artefact was located on the western side of Domain Creek, south of Coleman Oval and adjacent to the children's playground. The site is located approximately 15m to the west of Domain Creek and approximately 300m to the west of Parramatta River. The artefact was recorded approximately 150m south of Attenbrow's Location J. Steele records this as Location Q.

While undertaking monitoring within the Parramatta Golf Course, Steele (2001) identified a silcrete core on the surface of "introduced red clay" that most likely comes from excavations associated with adjacent residential construction (2001: 22). This site is located within the Mays Hill Precinct., approximately 50m south west of Domain Creek. Whilst Steele's report (2001: 22) states that an AHIMS site card was submitted for this site, it does not appear on the AHIMS Search dated 03/05/2013. Steele records this site as Location S.

In 2011 Smith undertook monitoring of the excavation of a trench extending from the Parramatta Golf Club service pole in a northerly direction towards Park Parade (2011: 1). While he reports that no Aboriginal objects were located during the works, he notes that natural soils were present underneath fill from a depth of approximately 250mm (2011: 1).

The archaeological evidence indicates that Parramatta Park is a significant cultural landscape containing evidence of occupation in the form of artefact scatters, scarred trees, resources and sub-surface archaeological deposits. It provides fresh water, a wide range of resources for sustenance and tool making, a ridgeline for travel and vantage points.

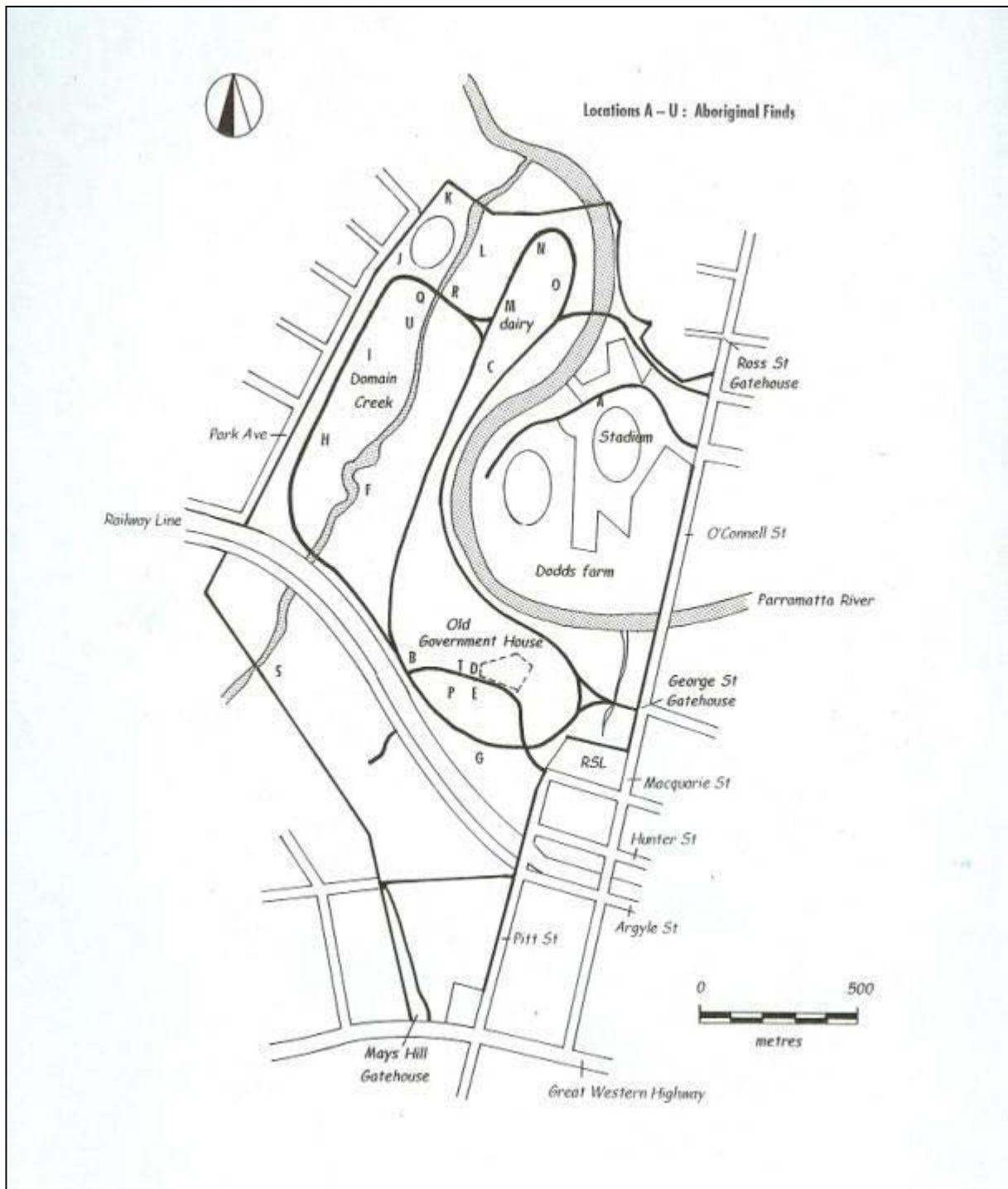


Figure 11: Showing Attenbrow and Steele's site locations (Locations A - O)
(from Steele 2013: 46)



7.4 The Cumberland Precinct

The AHIMS register does not record any known sites within the Cumberland Precinct. AHMS (2013) undertook a preliminary Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. Due to the low ground visibility they did not record any sites within this precinct. However, they predicted that "land within 100m of the Parramatta River would be highly likely to contain high density, complex archaeological sites and that land situated over 100m from the Parramatta River has moderate potential for low density archaeological sites" (AHMS 2013:3). Based on their predictive model they developed an archaeological sensitivity map dividing the Cumberland Precinct into areas of high, medium and low sensitivity. The predictive model contained in section 9 of this report has considered their areas of sensitivity and developed a predictive model and areas of sensitivity based on the updated cultural and environmental research contained in this report.

7.5 Sports and Leisure Precinct

A scarred tree (AHIMS 45-5-0277) was initially recorded by Cook in 1981. It was recorded as being located 60m north of the grandstand on the western side at Cumberland Oval (now Parramatta Stadium). Attenbrow (1994; 1996a) was unable to locate the scarred tree and very few details are recorded. Therefore, it was removed sometime between 1981 and 1994. Attenbrow (1994) states that it may have been removed during construction of the Parramatta Stadium (Attenbrow 1994). The site inspection for the present project also failed to locate the tree.

No other known sites are recorded within the Sports and Leisure Precinct.

8.0 SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

PREAMBLE
ASSESSMENT



8.0 SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT/ABORIGINAL VALUES

8.1 Preamble

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

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

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

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

Historic Value refers to the associations of a place with a person, event, phase or activity of importance to the history of an Aboriginal community.

Scientific Value refers to the importance of a landscape, area, place or object because of its archaeological and/or other technical aspects.

Aesthetic Value refers to the sensory, scenic, architectural and creative aspects of the place.

Representativeness refers to whether the site demonstrates the principal characteristics of that site and is a good representative example of that site type.

Rarity refers to the degree to which such a site is known elsewhere and whether the site is uncommon, rare or endangered.

8.2 Assessment

Social Values

Consultation with representatives of the Aboriginal community indicates that the study area is of importance to the local and broader Aboriginal community. Both precincts have the potential to contain evidence of Aboriginal occupation which provide a continuing cultural link to their past. . In particular, Parramatta Park is exceptionally important to the local and broader Aboriginal community. The Park provides evidence of Aboriginal occupation providing tangible links with the lifestyle and values of their ancestors.

Both precincts have the potential to contain contemporary associations and attachments related to the Aboriginal history of incarceration for the Cumberland precinct and sport and leisure activities in Sports and Leisure Precincts.

Historic Values

The Cumberland Precinct has to the potential to contain contemporary historic values associated with the history of incarceration of Aboriginal children and adults. It is possible that Aboriginal children were taken from their families and confined at the Orphan School and/or Norma Parker Centre and adults in the Parramatta Gaol. However, further research which is beyond the scope of this project is required to confirm this.

The Sports and Leisure Precinct contains contemporary significance related to the history of the participation of Aboriginal people in sport and the history of individual sportspeople who have played football and cricket at the various sports ovals.

Both precincts have the potential to contain subsurface Aboriginal archaeological deposits which demonstrate the history of Aboriginal landuse patterns. resource use and subsistence activities.

Parramatta Park is exceptionally significant because it represents significant aspects of Aboriginal history demonstrating the survival techniques utilised prior to European occupation. Parramatta Park provides important educational opportunities to demonstrate Aboriginal history.

**Scientific Values**

The study area has the potential to yield further information through detailed archaeological and scientific research into the nature of Aboriginal occupation and techniques utilised in subsistence activities.

Aesthetic Values

The study area has been modified since settlement so no longer contains aesthetic values related to Aboriginal use and occupation. However, Parramatta Park represents an attractive “park-like” setting created through Aboriginal land management techniques such as “firestick farming”. The sites recorded in the Park indicate the creative and technical achievement of pre-contact Aboriginal people in their ability to utilise available materials for subsistence and other lifestyle activities.

Representative Values

Until further research has been undertaken it is not known whether the study area contains representative values related to Aboriginal occupation.

Rarity Values

Until further research has been undertaken it is not known whether the study area contains rarity values related to Aboriginal occupation although Parramatta Park is a rare example of an intact Aboriginal cultural landscape within Sydney.

Statement of Significance

Consultation with representatives of the Aboriginal community indicates that the study area is of importance to the local and broader Aboriginal community. Both precincts have the potential to contain evidence of Aboriginal occupation which provide a continuing cultural link to their past. . In particular, Parramatta Park is exceptionally important to the local and broader Aboriginal community. The Park provides evidence of Aboriginal occupation providing tangible links with the lifestyle and values of their ancestors. Both precincts including Parramatta Park have the potential to contain subsurface Aboriginal archaeological deposits which demonstrate the history of Aboriginal landuse patterns, resource use and subsistence activities. Parramatta Park is exceptionally significant because it represents significant aspects of Aboriginal history demonstrating the survival techniques utilised prior to European occupation. Parramatta Park provides important educational opportunities to demonstrate Aboriginal history.

Both precincts have the potential to contain contemporary associations and attachments related to the Aboriginal history of incarceration for the Cumberland precinct and sport and leisure activities in Sports and Leisure Precincts.

The Cumberland Precinct has to the potential to contain contemporary historic values associated with the history of incarceration of Aboriginal children and adults. It is possible that Aboriginal children were taken from their families and confined at the Orphan School and/or Norma Parker Centre and adults in the Parramatta Gaol. However, further research which is beyond the scope of this project is required to confirm this.

The Sports and Leisure Precinct contains contemporary significance related to the history of the participation of Aboriginal people in sport and the history of individual sportspeople who have played football and cricket at the various sports ovals.

The study area has the potential to yield further information through detailed archaeological and scientific research into the nature of Aboriginal occupation and techniques utilised in subsistence activities.

9.0 PREDICTIVE MODEL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL



9.0 PREDICTIVE MODEL

9.1 Predictive Model

On the basis of the above environmental and archaeological information, predictions can be made about where sites might occur and what site types would be expected. From the available information, it can be extrapolated that the following landforms are culturally sensitive:

- The Parramatta Terrace Sand. Detailed mapping of the Parramatta Terrace Sand has not occurred within the study area. It is highly likely that alluvial sands are located within the study area close to the Parramatta River. However, the evidence indicates that the Cumberland Precinct has been filled to raise it above the flood plain prior to construction of existing buildings. Within the SPL precinct the landscape has been modified with introduced topsoil and landscaping to create the playing fields and open recreational area. It is possible that alluvial sands could exist at least 1m under the present ground level. Mitchell (2008) has demonstrated that the Terrace Sand can extend beyond 300m from the riverbank.
- Areas of floodplain (whether alluvial or clay) beyond the Terrace Sand but close to the Parramatta River may contain more intensively utilised occupation sites. Using Mitchell's modelling, this would be beyond 300m of the riverbank.
- Areas of the floodplain further from the Parramatta River may be characterised by more temporary occupation sites, i.e. opportunistic or casual use knapping events.

All of the above landforms can be found within both The Cumberland Precinct and the Sports & Leisure Precinct indicating that it is highly likely that the whole of the study area Aboriginal archaeological deposits. Such evidence could include the following site types:

- *Open camp sites or artefact scatters*
These sites are characterised by surface or subsurface scatters of stone artefacts or artefacts embedded in deposits.
- *Isolated finds*
Single artefacts which may be the result of tool loss, abandonment or maintenance may be found. These may also be indicators of otherwise buried sites or the only remains of heavily disturbed sites.
- *Rock Engravings and Axe Grinding Grooves*
Rock engravings and axe grinding grooves could occur along the banks of the Parramatta River. During the site inspection it was not possible to access the lower banks of the river to assess whether rock outcrops with or without engravings and grinding grooves were present.
- *Scarred trees*
It is highly unlikely that a scarred tree will remain within the study area. Scarred trees are the result of bark or wood removal to be utilised in the manufacture of shields, shelters, canoes or coolamons (water containers). Aboriginal scars will only be found on trees of sufficient age (ie 150 years or older). Although scarred trees are known in Parramatta Park, the clearing of both precincts indicates that scarred trees will not be found. This was confirmed by the site inspection.

It should be noted that the level of disturbance within both precincts does not preclude the possibility that subsurface evidence of Aboriginal occupation remains within the study area. The introduction of fill and topsoil may have covered and protected the original ground surface and evidence Aboriginal occupation. Footings or foundations for buildings which extend beyond the fill may have disturbed deposits, but not necessarily removed them. However, buildings containing basements have mostly likely removed evidence of occupation. Open areas of playing field and recreational areas within the Cumberland Precinct which have not been built on have the potential to contain relatively undisturbed sites. Within the Sports and Leisure Precinct areas containing topsoil and fill will have the potential to contain undisturbed sites. Any areas within the Sports and Leisure Precinct which have been levelled or excavated prior to development will not contain evidence of archaeological occupation. These include the Parramatta Oval and Swimming Pool.



9.2 Archaeological Potential

The whole of the study area has the potential to contain evidence of Aboriginal occupation. The environment and cultural research contained in this report indicates that in some areas the evidence may be of a higher density and in some areas suffered no or minor disturbances. Certain areas may have been disturbed by post-contact development and potentially disturbed the archaeological evidence. Therefore, it is necessary to determine areas of archaeological potential to assist in understanding the nature of the archaeological resources across the site. To determine archaeological potential the following categories have been developed:

High Archaeological Potential: are areas located within 300m of the Parramatta River and/or on the Parramatta Terrace Sand which have been subject to either no or minor disturbance. This area may contain more highly complex, higher density sites.

Medium Archaeological Potential: are areas on the floodplain over 300m from the bank of the Parramatta River and which may contain lower density, intermittently used sites. Areas of medium potential may have been disturbed minor by post-contact development activities such as filling and the construction of buildings on the fill.

Low Archaeological Potential: are areas that have been impacted by post-contact development such as building footings, foundations etc. Whilst they would have once contained archaeological evidence the excavation for footings and foundations would have dispersed the evidence.

No Archaeological Potential: are areas that have suffered extensive excavation such as the quarry site within the northern portion of the study area, the Parramatta stadium and swimming pool and buildings with basements and excavations for services such as sewer, water etc.

9.3 Potential and Significance of precincts

Cumberland Precinct: This precinct contains contemporary significance to Aboriginal people representing the history of incarceration faced by Aboriginal people since the invasion. It also contains medium to high archaeological potential, despite later development. The filling of the site to raise it above flood levels and construction of buildings on that fill would have ensured protection of Aboriginal archaeological evidence.

Sports and Leisure Precinct: This precinct has introduced fill and topsoil in a large proportion of the site. These areas will contain medium to high archaeological potential. Excavations for areas such as the stadium and swimming pool would most likely have destroyed any archaeological evidence. It should be noted that a portion of Parramatta Park is located in the Sports and Leisure Precinct.

Parramatta Park: Parramatta Park is a significant Aboriginal cultural landscape of importance to the Aboriginal and broader community. Not only does it contain known sites and high archaeological potential, but it contains memories and meanings to the Aboriginal community beyond the physical evidence of occupation. The land itself is imbued with spiritual meaning and provides a powerful representation of their past and future.

9.4 Mitigation and Management

Parramatta Park is a significant cultural landscape that should remain as recreational open space. It should not be developed, nor should high density development occur on its boundaries.

The majority of the study area has been assessed as containing medium to high archaeological potential. Prior to redevelopment it will be necessary to determine the nature and extent of the Aboriginal resources within the study area. This could include subsurface deposits and engravings or axe grinding grooves along the river bank. Further research will also be required to understand contemporary Aboriginal significance.

Therefore, to mitigate against the impacts of development, the following should be undertaken:

- Research about Aboriginal incarceration and contemporary associations with the Cumberland Precinct and Sports and Leisure Precinct should be undertaken. This should include an oral history program with the Aboriginal community to aid in the assessment of contemporary Aboriginal significance. The history contained in this report should be updated



to include information about Aboriginal associations with the Cumberland Precinct and Sports and Leisure Precinct obtained from the research and oral histories.

- Geotechnical testing should be undertaken to determine the nature of the soils and to identify the level of fill and whether the Parramatta Terrace Sand exists within the area to be developed.
- Aboriginal community consultation should be undertaken in accordance with the Office of Environment & Heritage's (OEH) *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*. This should be undertaken for the whole of the study area, and undertaken prior to the testing detailed below.
- Aboriginal archaeological testing should be undertaken in accordance with OEH's *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*. This testing should be undertaken for the whole of the study area to gain a detailed understanding of the nature and extent of Aboriginal "objects" within the study area. This will assist in the formulation of management recommendations for Aboriginal objects, including the possibility for the need to apply for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP). A detailed research design which includes the proposed methodology for such testing should be developed in association with Aboriginal stakeholders to guide the program of archaeological testing. This testing can be undertaken without an AHIP if undertaken in accordance with OEH's *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*. This testing can only commence once consultation with the Aboriginal community has been completed.
- An interpretation plan should be developed which includes interpretation of the Aboriginal history, significance and occupation of Parramatta and the study area.

10.0 SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATIONS



10.0. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Summary

The study area is of significance to the Aboriginal and broader community. It has the potential to contain evidence of Aboriginal occupation in the form of subsurface archaeological deposits. It also has the potential to contain contemporary Aboriginal social and historical values.

This assessment has determined that such evidence could be found over the whole of the site, despite later development, although the area within 300m of the river may contain more complex, higher density sites. The evidence indicates that most of the study area has been filled to a depth of at least 1m and that topsoil has been introduced to create playing fields and recreational areas. The introduction of fill and topsoil would have covered and protected the original ground surface and evidence of Aboriginal occupation.

The Sports & Leisure Precinct contains a portion of Parramatta Park. The whole of Parramatta Park is extremely important to the Aboriginal community. It is a significant cultural landscape containing evidence of Aboriginal occupation in the form of scarred trees, artefact scatters and resource zones. The whole landscape including connections between individual sites is imbued with significant cultural meaning. The Park is a rare and valuable cultural and natural landscape representing the history of the Darug Nation. The Cumberland Plain vegetation within the Park is an integral part of that history, as is the open “park like” setting that was created by “firestick farming”. Darug cultural values include the strong relationship they have with the environment and its natural resources. The Aboriginal community would like Parramatta Park to be excluded from the rezoning proposal.

10.2 Recommendations

The following recommendations are made in accordance with the assessment contained in this report and Aboriginal community consultation.

- 1.0 Development of the portion of Parramatta Park within the Sports & Leisure Precinct should be limited to the footprint of the existing swimming pool and associated carparks within the Sports & Leisure Precinct. Parramatta Park is a significant cultural landscape which should be excluded from any further excisions, rezoning, development or high density boundary development. It should remain as public open space used for informal recreational activities.
- 2.0 The feeling of openness and seclusion which contribute to an understanding of the cultural landscape of Parramatta Park should be maintained. High rise development adjacent to the Park that can be viewed from within the Park may have a negative impact on this appreciation of the precontact Aboriginal landscape. Appropriate and sensitive urban design principles should be developed which will mitigate this negative impact. View lines to and from Parramatta Park should be managed as detailed in the report by Planisphere (2012).
- 3.0 Further research is required to ensure best practice management of the Aboriginal values within the study area. This includes:
 - Research about Aboriginal incarceration and contemporary associations with the Cumberland Precinct and Sports and Leisure Precinct should be undertaken. This should include an oral history program with the Aboriginal community to aid in the assessment of contemporary Aboriginal significance. The history contained in this report should be updated to include information about Aboriginal associations with the Cumberland Precinct and Sports and Leisure Precinct obtained from the research and oral histories.
 - Geotechnical testing should be undertaken to determine the nature of the soils and to identify the level of fill and whether the Parramatta Terrace Sand exists within the area to be developed.
 - Aboriginal community consultation should be undertaken in accordance with the Office of Environment & Heritage's (OEH) *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*. This should be undertaken for the whole of the study area and prior to the archaeological testing detailed below. This consultation is a lengthy process and can at least four months to complete.
 - Aboriginal archaeological testing should be undertaken in accordance with OEH's *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*. This testing should be undertaken for the whole of the study area to gain a detailed understanding of the nature and extent of Aboriginal “objects” within



the study area. This will assist in the formulation of management recommendations for Aboriginal objects, including the possibility for the need to apply for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP). A detailed research design which includes the proposed methodology for such testing should be developed in association with Aboriginal stakeholders to guide the program of archaeological testing. This testing can be undertaken without an AHIP if undertaken in accordance with OEH's *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*. Consultation with the Aboriginal community as detailed in OEH's *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* must be undertaken prior to the commencement of the testing.

- An interpretation plan should be developed which includes interpretation of the Aboriginal history, significance and occupation of Parramatta and the study area.

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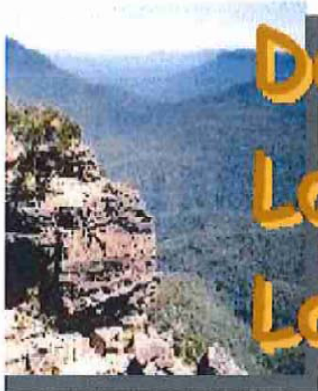
APPENDIX A

REPORTS FROM:

- Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Darug Aboriginal Tribal Corporation
- Darug Aboriginal Custodian Corporation
- Darug Cultural Heritage Assessment
- Parramatta ATSI Committee members



APPENDIX A: ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY REPORTS



Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council

Level 1, Suite 3
291-295 High Street
PENRITH NSW 2750
PO Box 40
Penrith BC
NSW 2751 AUSTRALIA
ABN: 41 303 129 586
T: (02) 4724 5600
F: (02) 4722 9713
E: reception@deerubbin.org.au
W: <http://www.deerubbin.org.au>

Urban Growth NSW
C/- Comber Consultants
76 Edwin Street
CROYDON NSW 2132

Our Ref: 2457

29 August 2014

SUBJECT: PROTECTION OF ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE
Parramatta North Urban Renewal
Cumberland East Precinct and Sports & Leisure Precinct
Parramatta

Attention: Jillian Comber,

A representative of Deerubbin LALC along with consulting archaeologist Jillian Comber inspected the Cumberland East Precinct and Sports & Leisure Precinct Wednesday, 30 July 2014. An Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment was undertaken to evaluate the likely impact the future development has on the cultural heritage within the study area.

On the basis of information provided in the draft report of the Parramatta North Urban Renewal, Cumberland East Precinct and Sports & Leisure Precinct. Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council therefore, supports the recommendations made on page 47, Section 10.2 paragraphs 1.0, 2.0 & 3.0. of the draft report.

Deerubbin LALC has a Land Claim over the former Parramatta Goal of Lot 2 in DP 734689 (Land Claim No.21134) and another Land Claim west of Parramatta River to Railway line of Lot 7054 in DP 1074335 (Land Claim No. 24176) also within the study area

Yours Faithfully,

(Steven Randall
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Officer)



DARUG TRIBAL ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

From: jmreilly228 [mailto:jmreilly228@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, 27 August 2014 3:13 PM
To: jillian.comber@comber.net.au
Subject: Parramatta North Urban Renewal (PNUR)

Thank you jillian for the report.

We thank you for genuine concern for our heritage. We agree and support your recommendations for this project.

John reilly
Aboriginal archaeological assessment officer
D.t.a.c



Darug Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessments

ABN 51734106483

Gordon Morton

Mob: 0422 865 831
Fax: 45 677 421

Celestine Everingham
90 Hermitage Rd., Turrajong Hills, 2758
Ph/Fax: 45677 421
Mob: 0432 528 896

29. 8. '14

Attention

Jillian Gombert

re Parramatta Park North urban renewal

DACHA have reviewed your report & the most significant Darug cultural landscape, a rare and valuable natural and cultural environment imbued with meaning for the Darug. It represents the fact that was and should remain for the future, for all Australians. The Park is a teaching source and the feeling of openness should be maintained for all time and its development footprint should be limited. DACHA opposes any highway development that is visible from the Park entrance and we feel such respect should be given to the cultural and heritage of Parramatta. Yours Sincerely,
C. Everingham -
the first people-

Cultural Heritage – Building respect for the past and Conservation for the future

PLEASE SEE TRANSCRIPTION ON FOLLOWING PAGE



TRANSCRIPTION OF FAXED HAND WRITTEN LETTER ON PREVIOUS PAGE

**Darug Aboriginal Cultural
Heritage Assessment**

ABN 51 734106483

Gordon Morton

**Mob: 0422 865 831
Fax: 45 677 421**

Celestine Everingham

**90 Heritage Road, Kurrajong Hills, 2758
Ph/Fax: 45677 421
Mob: 0432 528 896**

Attention
Jillian Comber

29.8.14

re Parramatta Park North urban renewal

DACHA have reviewed your report and this most significant Darug cultural landscape, is a rare and valuable natural and cultural environment imbued with meaning for the traditional owners – the Darug. It represents the past that was and should remain for the future, for all Australians. The Park is a teaching resource and the feeling of openness should be maintained for all time and its development footprint should be limited. DACHA opposes any highrise development that is visible from the Park environs and we feel more respect should be given to the cultural and heritage of Parramatta's first peoples – the Darug.

Yours Sincerely,
(signed) C. Everingham



DARUG CUSTODIAN
ABORIGINAL
CORPORATION

PO BOX 81 WINDSOR 2756

PHONE: 0245775181 FAX: 0245775098

MOBILE: 0415770163 Leanne Watson

0414962766 Justine Coplin

EMAIL: mulgokiwi@bigpond.com / justinecoplin@optusnet.com.au

Attention: Comber Consultants

Subject: draft report for the Parramatta North Urban Renewal rezoning

Dear: Jillian

We have received and reviewed the– draft report for the Parramatta North Urban Renewal rezoning. The report and findings are very inclusive and informative this area has been recorded and documented to a high standard. Surrounding this area are many highly significant sites that are all a connected complex of sites. The information that we have collected to assess the bigger picture and add information to our overall studies of how Darug people moved, lived and survived in this landscape.

We would like to add that our sites are a complex and not all separate sites and recommend that the connections are interpreted throughout the project. Information gathered during these projects is of high significance, once our sites are gone there is no other evidence of the sites or connections. Surrounding areas have shown in recent excavations and surveys that this is a Darug landscape and there are still numerous parts of our histories to be recorded. Parramatta Park contains Scar Trees, numerous sites and resource zone, that we still use today for educating the next generation.

There is a section in the rezoning on the eastern side which is in the Parramatta Park boundaries that should not be developed and left as green open space, no development on the boundaries.

Cumberland precinct is important because of the Aboriginal association with the Orphanage School and the jail.



No large building should be erected to affect the view lines and that may affect or harm the heritage buildings in any way.

Darug sites and objects of cultural heritage are protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Service NSW act 1974. It is a main goal in our constitution to care for our sites, places, oral histories and objects in conjunction with the NPWS act.

We support the findings and recommendations in this report.

Please contact us with all further enquiries on the above contacts.

Regards

Justine Coplin



EMAIL FROM SHARRON SHUTTLEWORTH and CHRISTINE NOBILIA
Members of the Parramatta City Council Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Committee

From: Sharon Shuttleworth [<mailto:Sharon.Shuttleworth@mynrma.com.au>]
Sent: Friday, 5 September 2014 3:56 PM
To: jillian.comber@comber.net.au
Subject: FW: PNUR

Hi Jillian,

I have spoken with Chris today and we both agree that it is important that the proposal include both Aboriginal and colonial perspectives. A non development area of 40 metres from the riverbank is also important. As Darug aboriginal people we are concerned that any artefacts found during the cleanup/ preparation/ restoration and/or development of the area be conserved for future prosperity. If and when any artefacts are found it is our belief that they shouldn't be moved but displayed in a heritage centre possibly in Parramatta.

The overall plan needs to be presented in a very sensitive way to ensure the positives outweigh the negatives.

It is important to safeguard the Heritage listed buildings however it is more import to acknowledge the content and high significance of the Darug Aboriginal People.

I would also like to thank yourself and Jennifer for the special day we both had.

Sharon and Christine

RESPONSE FROM JILLIAN COMBER

From: Jillian Comber [<mailto:jillian.comber@comber.net.au>]
Sent: Friday, 5 September 2014 4:20 PM
To: 'Sharon Shuttleworth'
Subject: RE: PNUR

Hi Sharon

Thanks for your response, which I will include in my report – and I will send you a copy of the final report.

An assessment of the built heritage and non-Aboriginal archaeology has been undertaken by Casey & Lowe and presented at the various Charrettes in Parramatta. I am sure that Jennifer would be happy to organise another presentation to the committee on the non-Aboriginal heritage. I will contact her to discuss and arrange it. All of the heritage listed buildings are being protected.

As for the 40m non-development zone I just rang the design team and were advised that there will be riparian zone of over 40m in the Cumberland Precinct. Some of the existing buildings intrude into that zone, but generally, it will be over 40m and there will be a walking/cycling pathway. In the Sports & Leisure Precinct it will be even wider – up to 100m.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Jillian



ARCHAEOLOGY - HERITAGE - MEDIATION - ARBITRATION

COMBER CONSULTANTS PTY LTD

ABN 96 109 670 573

76 EDWIN STREET NORTH

CROYDON, NSW, 2132

T 02 9799 6000

F 02 9799 6011

www.comber.net.au

DIRECTOR

JILLIAN COMBER

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, SYSTEMS

DAVID NUTLEY

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PROJECTS

TORY STENING