

Large Erecting Shop - Rezoning Proposal

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study
& Statement of Impact

Prepared for TAHE
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Curio Projects Pty Ltd
5 Blackfriars Street
Chippendale NSW 2008

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Relevant Abbreviations

ABBREVIATION/ TERM	DEFINITION
ACHAR	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
ATR	Archaeological Technical Report
AHIMS	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
AHIP	Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit
ASIRF	Aboriginal Site Impact Recording Form
‘Code of Practice	DECCW 2010, Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales.
‘Consultation Guidelines’	DECCW 2010, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010.
DECCW	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (later known as Office of Environment and Heritage—OEH, now under Heritage NSW).
‘Due Diligence Code of Practice’	DECCW 2010, Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW.
EP&A Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
‘Guide to Investigating’	OEH 2011, Guide to Investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW.
Heritage Act	NSW Heritage Act 1977
ICOMOS	International Council of Monuments and Sites
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
LGA	Local Government Area
NPW Act	NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
OEH	NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (formerly DECCW, now under Heritage NSW)
PAD	Potential Archaeological Deposit
RAPs	Registered Aboriginal Parties
SHR	NSW State Heritage Register

Executive Summary

Curio Projects Pty Ltd (Curio) have been commissioned by Mirvac to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study and Statement of Impact for the Large Erecting Shop (LES) (the study area) Re-Zoning Proposal. The site sits within the Eveleigh Railway Workshops (EWR) curtilage.

This Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study and Statement of Impact documents the process of investigations, consultation, and assessment with regards to Aboriginal cultural heritage and Aboriginal archaeology, as undertaken for the study area, specific to the proposed redevelopment works. This included background research and assessment of evidence and information about material traces of Aboriginal land use in the study area and surrounds, significance assessment of potential Aboriginal sites, places, landscapes, and/or other values, as well as an impact assessment and management recommendations to assist Mirvac with their future responsibilities for Aboriginal cultural heritage within the study area.

The LES is a heritage listed building which will be adaptively re-purposed to celebrate the heritage significance of the existing building, whilst also providing a contemporary workplace.

State- Led Rezoning Study Requirements

A request was made to Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) in February 2022 to request the NSW Minister of Planning and Public Spaces undertake a State-led rezoning to enable the adaptive reuse of the LES site. Specifically, a letter was sent to formally request that DPIE prepared Study Requirements to inform a future State Significant Precinct (SSP) Study for the LES site.

Table 1.1 provides a summary of the Study Requirements addressed by all heritage reports, including this Non-Aboriginal Heritage Study report, and where relevant requirements is addressed.

Table 1.1: Study Requirements - Heritage

Study Requirements	References
4. Heritage	
4.1 Prepare an Integrated Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study for the site that:	Refer to the present report. Refer to the following report: • Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Non-Aboriginal Heritage Study: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i> .
a) Undertakes Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the site and surrounds including Aboriginal archaeology, culture, country, and intangible and social heritage, which: • Includes the results of consultation with relevant Aboriginal stakeholders and knowledge holders for the site and surrounds; • Provides an overall Statement of Significance for Aboriginal values within and beyond the South Eveleigh precinct and recommendations to guide the protection, conservation and	Refer to the present report. Refer to Chapter 3 (pages 29-31) of the present report. Refer to Chapter 7 (pages 72 -77) and Chapter 10 (pages 95-97) of the present report.

Study Requirements	References
<p>management of tangible and intangible Aboriginal values, in the context of the development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assesses the likely impact of the proposal on any identified Aboriginal cultural heritage; • Provides recommendations to guide the management of Aboriginal heritage significance, any items of significance and the likely impact on Aboriginal heritage as a result of the proposal; 	<p>Refer to Chapter 8 (pages 78-86) of the present report.</p> <p>Refer to Chapter 10 (pages 94-97) of the present report.</p>
<p>b) Undertakes an assessment identifying all heritage items (state, local and potential) and conservation areas within and near the site, including built heritage, landscapes and archaeology, with detailed mapping of items and an assessment of why the items and Site(s) are of heritage significance;</p>	<p>Refer to Chapter 2 (pages 31-35) and Chapter 6 (pages 106- 117) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Statement of Heritage Impact: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>. <p>Refer to Chapter 2 (pages 31-35) and 6 (pages 106-179) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Non-Aboriginal Heritage Study: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>.
<p>c) Provides recommendations to guide future development with specific consideration to the bulk height and scale of existing significant items within the South Eveleigh precinct, including its setting, context, streetscape and visual and physical character of the locality, broader Eveleigh Railway Workshops, surrounding conservation areas and heritage items. This should be integrated with the Urban Design Framework;</p>	<p>Refer to Chapter 9 (pages 174-177) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Statement of Heritage Impact: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>. <p>Refer to Chapter 8 (page 153-158) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Non-Aboriginal Heritage Study: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>.
<p>d) Includes a Statement of Heritage Impact (SoHI) to assess the likely impact of the proposal on any identified non-Aboriginal cultural heritage, including to the broader State Heritage Register listed Eveleigh Railway Workshops, with recommendations for the management of the cultural and industrial heritage of the site and measures to avoid, minimise and mitigate heritage impacts;</p>	<p>Refer to Chapter 8 & 9 (pages 135-177) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Statement of Heritage Impact: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>.
<p>e) Includes a comprehensive archaeological management plan and framework strategy to capture and collate all recent archaeological investigations and guide the management of potential archaeological resources.</p>	<p>Refer to Chapter 5 (pages 95-104) & Chapter 8 (pages 152-155) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Statement of Heritage Impact: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>. <p>Refer to Chapter 5 (pages 115-126) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Non-Aboriginal Heritage Study: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>.

Study Requirements	References
f) Informs and supports the preparation of the site planning framework.	<p>Refer to Chapter 1 (pages 11-25) of the present report.</p> <p>Refer to Chapter 2 (pages 30-35) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Non-Aboriginal Heritage Study: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>. <p>Refer to Chapter 2 (pages 31-35) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Statement of Heritage Impact: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>.
4.2 Prepare a document that outlines an integrated approach to guide zoning and development proposals at North and South Eveleigh, including an updated Statement of Significance to inform the future opportunities and constraints for change that do not significantly diminish the heritage values of the SHR listed Eveleigh Railway Workshops.	<p>Refer to Chapter 8 (pages 156-168) of the assessment of the LES rezoning proposal against the policies of the OCP 2022 CMP in the following report:</p> <p>Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Statement of Heritage Impact: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>.</p> <p>Refer to the following reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Otto Cserhalmi + Partners, 2022 (Curio Projects update). <i>ERW Overarching Conservation Management Plan</i>. Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Overarching Opportunities & Constraints – ERW</i>.
4.3 Prepare a Heritage Interpretation Strategy for the site that:	<p>Refer to the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Stage 1 Heritage Interpretation Plan: Large Erecting Shop</i>.
a) Recognises and celebrates Aboriginal connection to the site and addresses the full story of the place;	<p>Refer to Chapter 2 (pages 15, 21 and 33) and 4 (pages 37-38) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Stage 1 Heritage Interpretation Plan: Large Erecting Shop</i>.
b) Identifies key themes, social values, interpretive opportunities, measures and locations as an integral component of creating a unique and exciting destination as part of the broader State Heritage Register listed Eveleigh Railway Workshops item.	<p>Refer to Chapter 4 (pages 36- 37) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Stage 1 Heritage Interpretation Plan: Large Erecting Shop</i>.
c) Provides the strategic direction for heritage interpretation having regard to the site's heritage significance (in particular the sites social, intangible, industrial and engineering values) and regard to the place's relationship with nearby heritage items, as an integral component of the development of detailed design;	<p>Refer to Chapter 2 (pages 15-33) and 4 (pages 36-37) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Stage 1 Heritage Interpretation Plan: Large Erecting Shop</i>.
d) Accounts for existing and planned (where possible) interpretive approaches as part of other projects within and in the vicinity of the site.	<p>Refer to Chapter 2 (pages 26-29) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Stage 1 Heritage Interpretation Plan: Large Erecting Shop</i>.

Conclusions

This report relates specifically to the LES, Eveleigh study area in relation to potential Aboriginal and cultural heritage impacts. The following conclusions and recommendations are made based on:

- Legislation as detailed and adhered to through this report, including the NPW Act and relevant OEH (now part of Heritage NSW) statutory guidelines, protecting Aboriginal cultural and archaeological objects and places in NSW;
- Background research and archaeological analysis of the study area in its local and regional contexts;
- Consultation with the local Aboriginal community regarding the cultural significance of the study area and surrounding region, noting their concern, views, and requests; and
- Providing general assessment on the LES study area as a guide for the proponent until detailed impact assessments can be made once proposed works are developed.

The following conclusions are made with respect to Aboriginal cultural heritage and Aboriginal archaeology in relation to the Re-Zoning proposal and future development of the LES, Eveleigh, as follows:

- No registered Aboriginal sites are located within the study area
- Aboriginal site types most likely to be located in the Eveleigh region and study area are Potential Archaeological Deposits and low- density artefact sites
- Few Aboriginal archaeological excavations and investigations have been undertaken across the Eveleigh area to date, resulting in limited archaeological data and context available for comparison
- Historical development within the study area has resulted in disturbance and impact to upper natural soil profiles, however the study area has not previously been subject to extensive bulk excavation.
- Geotechnical testing undertaken 15m east of the study area beneath the Locomotive Workshop footprint, suggests intact natural soils may be retained beneath historical fill.
- Due to the proximity to Blackwattle Creek and likely non-perennial drainage lines and swamps, the study area has potential for low density artefact scatters and isolated artefacts to be present within natural undisturbed soil profiles, representative of ephemeral movement or short-term occupation of people through the landscape and use of the area as a natural resource zone.
- Should such deposits be found to be present within remnant natural soil profiles across the study area, these may have potential for moderate to high social, historical, and scientific significance, depending on the nature of the resource present.
- The study area has **low to moderate** potential for intact Aboriginal archaeological deposits to be present, mostly likely in the form of low density or isolated stone artefact sites representative of general Aboriginal movement across and use of the Redfern landscape. This assessment may be refined following receipt of geotechnical testing results.

- Should an Aboriginal archaeological deposit prove to be present within the study area, it will be impacted by any bulk excavation works proposed by the development.
- The proposed development, at the time of writing, proposes limited bulk excavation (e.g., no basement carpark) relating to services and lift pits, and will likely have physical impact to any subsurface Aboriginal archaeological deposit at the study area, should one be present.
- The study area has been assessed to have the potential to contain subsurface archaeological deposits, with a recommendation for sub surface investigations during the SSDA stage of the Project. Should subsequent stages of works identify archaeological deposits be present within the study area, they have the potential to hold social, historical and scientific values and as such would be reassessed against the relevant criteria.
- The Re-zoning Proposal and future development at the LES, Eveleigh site represents a significant opportunity to have an overall **positive impact to Aboriginal cultural heritage values** through the proposed introduction of meaningful heritage interpretation initiatives, as well as the integration of Aboriginal cultural heritage values and outcomes into the project design.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made for the LES, Eveleigh, project, with respect to Aboriginal cultural heritage values, archaeological potential and legislative and statutory requirements:

- Geotechnical Investigations should be undertaken across the footprint of the study area. This will allow a better understanding of any intact natural soil deposits within the study area and help in determining if Aboriginal archaeological test excavations will be required.
- A secondary ACHAR is prepared to support the SSDA for physical works within the study area. The secondary ACHAR should be informed by the completed CwC framework, geotechnical testing results and Aboriginal community consultation in line with the Consultation Guidelines.
- If geotechnical results identify any remnant soil landforms, a program of Aboriginal archaeological test excavations should be undertaken as part of the secondary ACHAR at the study area prior to any ground disturbing works to determine whether subsurface Aboriginal archaeological deposits are present. Specifically:
 - An archaeological test excavation methodology and archaeological research design (ARD) document should be prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice where applicable, establishing the research framework and methodological approach to guide the test excavation.
 - Any Aboriginal archaeological test excavation undertaken at the study area should work in collaboration with, or in acknowledgement of, any required historical archaeological investigation, should it be required (subject to the recommendations of a separate report).
- The Aboriginal Heritage Interpretation Plan should be developed and implemented for the development.
- Continuing consultation with the identified RAPs should be undertaken throughout the project and continued during future planning for development within the LES study area.

- Establish an Aboriginal reference group that will guide the design and interpretation for all future planning approvals within the LES study area.
- The Connecting with Country framework should be addressed during planning for all future developments at the LES.
- The Statement of Significance for the study area should be updated following completion of the CwC framework.

1. Introduction

1. 1. Introduction

1.1. The Purpose of this Report

Curio Projects Pty Ltd (Curio) have been commissioned by TAHE to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study and Statement of Impact for the Large Erecting Shop (LES) (the study area) Re-Zoning Proposal. The site sits within the Eveleigh Railway Workshops (EWR) curtilage.

This Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study and Statement of Impact documents the process of investigations, consultation, and assessment with regards to Aboriginal cultural heritage and Aboriginal archaeology, as undertaken for the study area, specific to the proposed redevelopment works. This included background research and assessment of evidence and information about material traces of Aboriginal land use in the study area and surrounds, significance assessment of potential Aboriginal sites, places, landscapes, and/or other values, as well as an impact assessment and management recommendations to assist Mirvac with their future responsibilities for Aboriginal cultural heritage within the study area.

The LES is a heritage listed building which will be adaptively re-purposed to celebrate the heritage significance of the existing building, whilst also providing a contemporary workplace.

This document has been prepared in accordance with relevant statutory guidelines including:

- DECCW 2010a, *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*. (the Due Diligence Code of Practice)
- OEH 2011a, *Guide to Investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW*. (the Guide to Investigating)
- DECCW 2010b, *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*. (the Code of Practice)
- DECCW 2010c, *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*. (the Consultation Guidelines)
- ICOMOS, 2013, *The Australian ICOMOS Charter for Place of Cultural Significance: The Burra Charter*. (the Burra Charter)
- NSW Heritage Office, 2002. *Statement of Heritage Impact Guidelines*.

This report has been prepared in reference to the following project documents:

- Mirvac, 2022. *Project Brief (LES)- Summarised high-level brief for Re-zoning*.
- FjmtStudio, 2022. *Large Erecting Shed, South Eveleigh/Rezoning Report*. Prepared for TAHE.
- Curio Projects, 2022. *Stage 1 Heritage Interpretation Plan: Large Erecting Shop*. Prepared for TAHE.
- Curio Projects, 2022. *Statement of Heritage Impact: Large Erecting Shop - Rezoning Proposal*. Prepared for TAHE
- Curio Projects, 2022. *Non- Aboriginal Heritage Study: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal*. Prepared for TAHE.
- Curio Projects, 2018. *Heritage Risk Assessment- LES Redevelopment*. Prepared for Mirvac.
- FCAD, 2022. *Connecting with Country Framework*. Prepared for TAHE.

Additional heritage documents that provided guidance in the preparation of this report include:

- Otto Cserhalmi + Partners, 2022 (Curio Update). *ERW Overarching Conservation Management Plan*, Prepared for UrbanGrowth NSW.
- Simpson Dawbin Associates Architects and Heritage Consultants, 2003. *Large Erecting Shop: Conservation Management Plan*. Prepared for Rail Estate.

- Artefact Heritage Services, 2022. *Redfern North Eveleigh Precinct Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study*. Prepared for Transport for NSW.
- Otto Cserhalmi + Partners, 2002. *Eveleigh Locomotive Workshops CMP*. Prepared for Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority.

1.2. State-Led Rezoning Study Requirements

A request was made to Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) in February 2022 to request the NSW Minister of Planning and Public Spaces undertake a State-led rezoning to enable the adaptive reuse of the LES site. Specifically, a letter was sent to formally request that DPIE prepared Study Requirements to inform a future State Significant Precinct (SSP) Study for the LES site.

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a) Undertakes Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the site and surrounds including Aboriginal archaeology, culture, country, and intangible and social heritage, which: • Includes the results of consultation with relevant Aboriginal stakeholders and knowledge holders for the site and surrounds; • Provides an overall Statement of Significance for Aboriginal values within and beyond the South Eveleigh precinct and recommendations to guide the protection, conservation and management of tangible and intangible Aboriginal values, in the context of the development • Assesses the likely impact of the proposal on any identified Aboriginal cultural heritage; • Provides recommendations to guide the management of Aboriginal heritage significance, any items of significance and the likely impact on Aboriginal heritage as a result of the proposal;	Refer to the present report. Refer to Chapter 3 (pages 29-31) of the present report. Refer to Chapter 7 (pages 72 -77) and Chapter 10 (pages 95-97) of the present report. Refer to Chapter 8 (pages 78-86) of the present report. Refer to Chapter 10 (pages 94-97) of the present report.
b) Undertakes an assessment identifying all heritage items (state, local and potential) and conservation areas within and near the site, including built heritage, landscapes and archaeology, with detailed mapping of items and an assessment of why the items and Site(s) are of heritage significance;	Refer to Chapter 2 (pages 31-35) and Chapter 6 (pages 106- 117) of the following report: • Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Statement of Heritage Impact: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i> . Refer to Chapter 2 (pages 31-35) and 6 (pages 106-179) of the following report:

Study Requirements	References
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Non-Aboriginal Heritage Study: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>.
<p>c) Provides recommendations to guide future development with specific consideration to the bulk height and scale of existing significant items within the South Eveleigh precinct, including its setting, context, streetscape and visual and physical character of the locality, broader Eveleigh Railway Workshops, surrounding conservation areas and heritage items. This should be integrated with the Urban Design Framework;</p>	<p>Refer to Chapter 9 (pages 174-177) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Statement of Heritage Impact: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>. <p>Refer to Chapter 8 (page 153-158) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Non-Aboriginal Heritage Study: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>.
<p>d) Includes a Statement of Heritage Impact (SoHI) to assess the likely impact of the proposal on any identified non-Aboriginal cultural heritage, including to the broader State Heritage Register listed Eveleigh Railway Workshops, with recommendations for the management of the cultural and industrial heritage of the site and measures to avoid, minimise and mitigate heritage impacts;</p>	<p>Refer to Chapter 8 & 9 (pages 135-177) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Statement of Heritage Impact: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>.
<p>e) Includes a comprehensive archaeological management plan and framework strategy to capture and collate all recent archaeological investigations and guide the management of potential archaeological resources.</p>	<p>Refer to Chapter 5 (pages 95-104) & Chapter 8 (pages 152-155) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Statement of Heritage Impact: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>. <p>Refer to Chapter 5 (pages 115-126) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Non-Aboriginal Heritage Study: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>.
<p>f) Informs and supports the preparation of the site planning framework.</p>	<p>Refer to Chapter 1 (pages 11-25) of the present report.</p> <p>Refer to Chapter 2 (pages 30-35) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Non-Aboriginal Heritage Study: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>. <p>Refer to Chapter 2 (pages 31-35) of the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Statement of Heritage Impact: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal</i>.
<p>4.2 Prepare a document that outlines an integrated approach to guide zoning and development proposals at North and South Eveleigh, including an updated Statement of Significance to inform the future opportunities and constraints for change</p>	<p>Refer to Chapter 8 (pages 156-168) of the assessment of the LES rezoning proposal against the policies of the OCP 2022 CMP in the following report:</p>

Study Requirements	References
that do not significantly diminish the heritage values of the SHR listed Eveleigh Railway Workshops.	Curio Projects, 2022. Statement of Heritage Impact: Large Erecting Shop – Rezoning Proposal. Refer to the following reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Otto Cserhalmi + Partners, 2022 (Curio Projects update). <i>ERW Overarching Conservation Management Plan</i>. • Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Overarching Opportunities & Constraints – ERW</i>.
4.3 Prepare a Heritage Interpretation Strategy for the site that:	Refer to the following report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Stage 1 Heritage Interpretation Plan: Large Erecting Shop</i>.
a) Recognises and celebrates Aboriginal connection to the site and addresses the full story of the place;	Refer to Chapter 2 (pages 15, 21 and 33) and 4 (pages 37-38) of the following report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Stage 1 Heritage Interpretation Plan: Large Erecting Shop</i>.
b) Identifies key themes, social values, interpretive opportunities, measures and locations as an integral component of creating a unique and exciting destination as part of the broader State Heritage Register listed Eveleigh Railway Workshops item.	Refer to Chapter 4 (pages 36- 37) of the following report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Stage 1 Heritage Interpretation Plan: Large Erecting Shop</i>.
c) Provides the strategic direction for heritage interpretation having regard to the site's heritage significance (in particular the sites social, intangible, industrial and engineering values) and regard to the place's relationship with nearby heritage items, as an integral component of the development of detailed design;	Refer to Chapter 2 (pages 15-33) and 4 (pages 36-37) of the following report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Stage 1 Heritage Interpretation Plan: Large Erecting Shop</i>.
d) Accounts for existing and planned (where possible) interpretive approaches as part of other projects within and in the vicinity of the site.	Refer to Chapter 2 (pages 26-29) of the following report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curio Projects, 2022. <i>Stage 1 Heritage Interpretation Plan: Large Erecting Shop</i>.

1.3. Project Overview

The LES is a large industrial building with a footprint of approximately 6,000sqm located at the north west of the South Eveleigh Precinct. The LES ceased formal operation in 1988 and has been largely unoccupied since approximately 2017.

The NSW Government is committed to working with the local community to develop the biggest innovation district of its kind in Australia, being Tech Central. The South Eveleigh Precinct is a key neighbourhood within Tech Central, delivering workplaces and collaboration spaces that support the vision for a new tech and innovation ecosystem. The inclusion of the LES within the broader South Eveleigh Precinct has the potential to support further innovation, collaboration and jobs for the future.

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) is therefore seeking to adaptively use the LES for a mix of uses, including commercial office and retail premises. Such land uses are currently not permitted within the planning controls that apply to the LES building, which still reflect its former infrastructure function.

As such, a State-led rezoning application is being proposed to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) to amend the planning controls that currently apply to the site under State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts – Eastern Harbour City) 2021 (Precincts SEPP).

The proposed new planning controls are intended to facilitate the following:

- Alterations within the existing LES to convert the ground level into commercial office and retail premises,
- Creation of two new ‘internal’ storeys within the existing LES building envelope for use as commercial office premises,
- External upgrade and conservation work to the existing LES building to ensure it is fit for purpose and environmentally sustainable,
- Heritage interpretation and conservation work generally throughout the LES site,
- Services augmentation, and
- Publicly accessible space upgrades.

While external works are required, the proposal does not seek to significantly alter the existing building footprint of the LES. Further it is proposed that the general form of the existing building and key architectural features of the existing building are retained in any future reuse of the building for commercial purposes, noting that the LES is part of the Eveleigh Railway Workshops complex included on the State Heritage Register.

Since 2015 Mirvac has successfully developed the South Eveleigh Precinct. With the completion of the Locomotive Workshop project, which also involved the adaptive use of industrial buildings listed on the State Heritage Register, it is now considered a logical time to adapt and integrate the LES into the broader technology precinct. Mirvac, on behalf of TfNSW, are therefore preparing documentation to support the State-led rezoning application.

1.4. Site Identification

The LES is an isolated building at the north west of the South Eveleigh Precinct as identified in Figure 1.2 and Figure 1.3. The South Eveleigh Precinct is located approximately 200m to the south west of Redfern Train Station and approximately 200m to the west of the future Sydney Metro Waterloo Metro Station (Figure 1.1). The South Eveleigh Precinct includes an overall area of approximately 13.2 hectares.

The LES site is currently legally described as being part of Lot 5, in Deposited Plan 1175706 (Figure 1.1). This allotment also includes the North Eveleigh Precinct, the rail lines separating the North and South Eveleigh Precincts, and Redfern Railway Station. It is proposed that the LES building will be subdivided from this overall allotment and subdivision will form part of a future application.

The LES is owned by TAHE NSW and managed by Transport Heritage NSW. It is currently being used as a maintenance facility for heritage locomotives, but it requires significant capital investment to bring it up to the required standards for continued use and avoid further deterioration.

The LES is a rectangular building consisting of two main bays with twin gable roofs running the length of the workshop. Internally, the workshops are articulated with regular cast-iron columns supporting both roof and overhead cranes. Main elevations are regularly articulated with twin semi-circular arched windows with smaller arched windows above. Existing site photographs can be seen in Figure 1.4 and Figure 1.5.

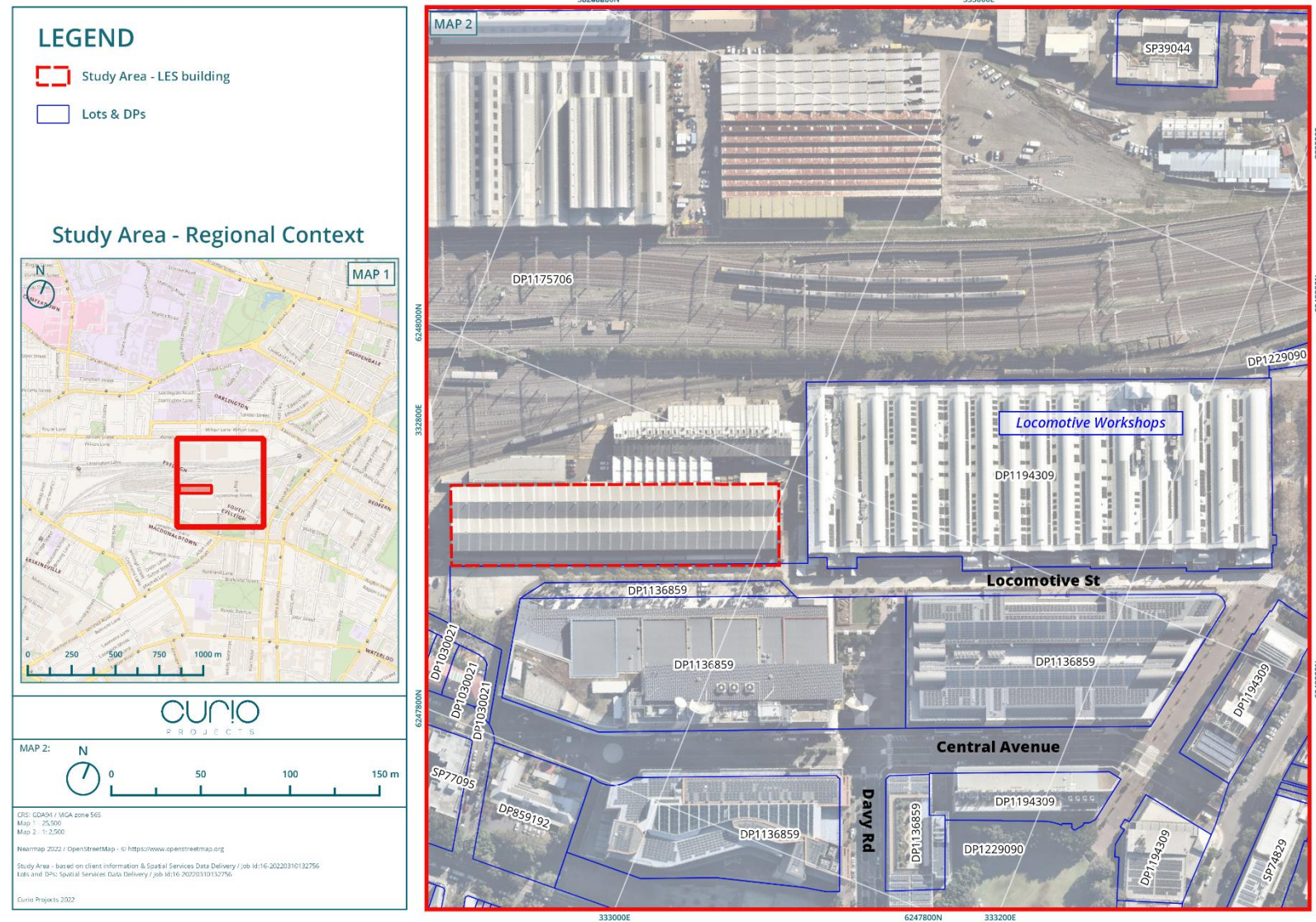


Figure 1.1: Regional Context and study area (Source: Curio)

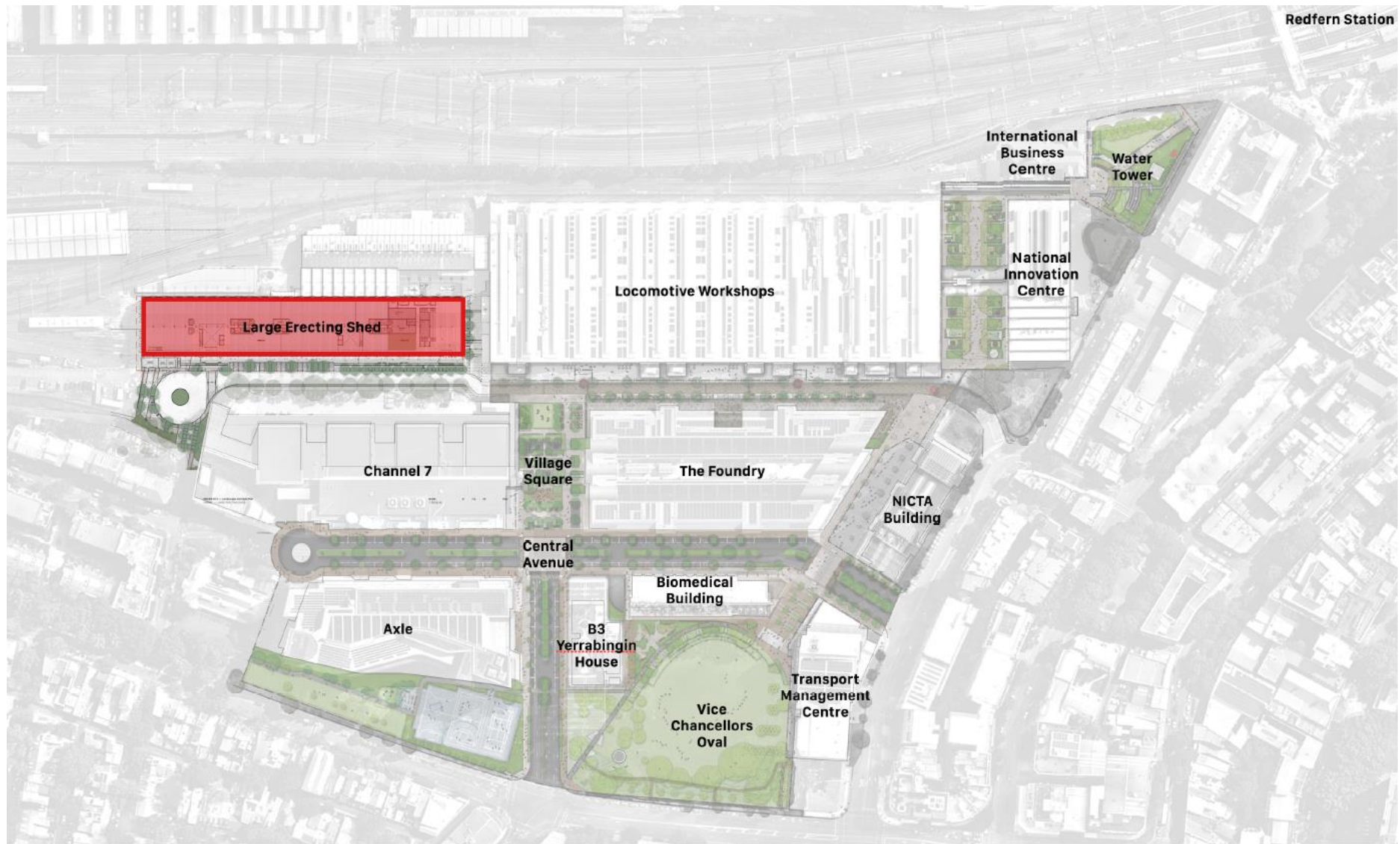


Figure 1.2: Site Location (Source: Mirvac 2022)

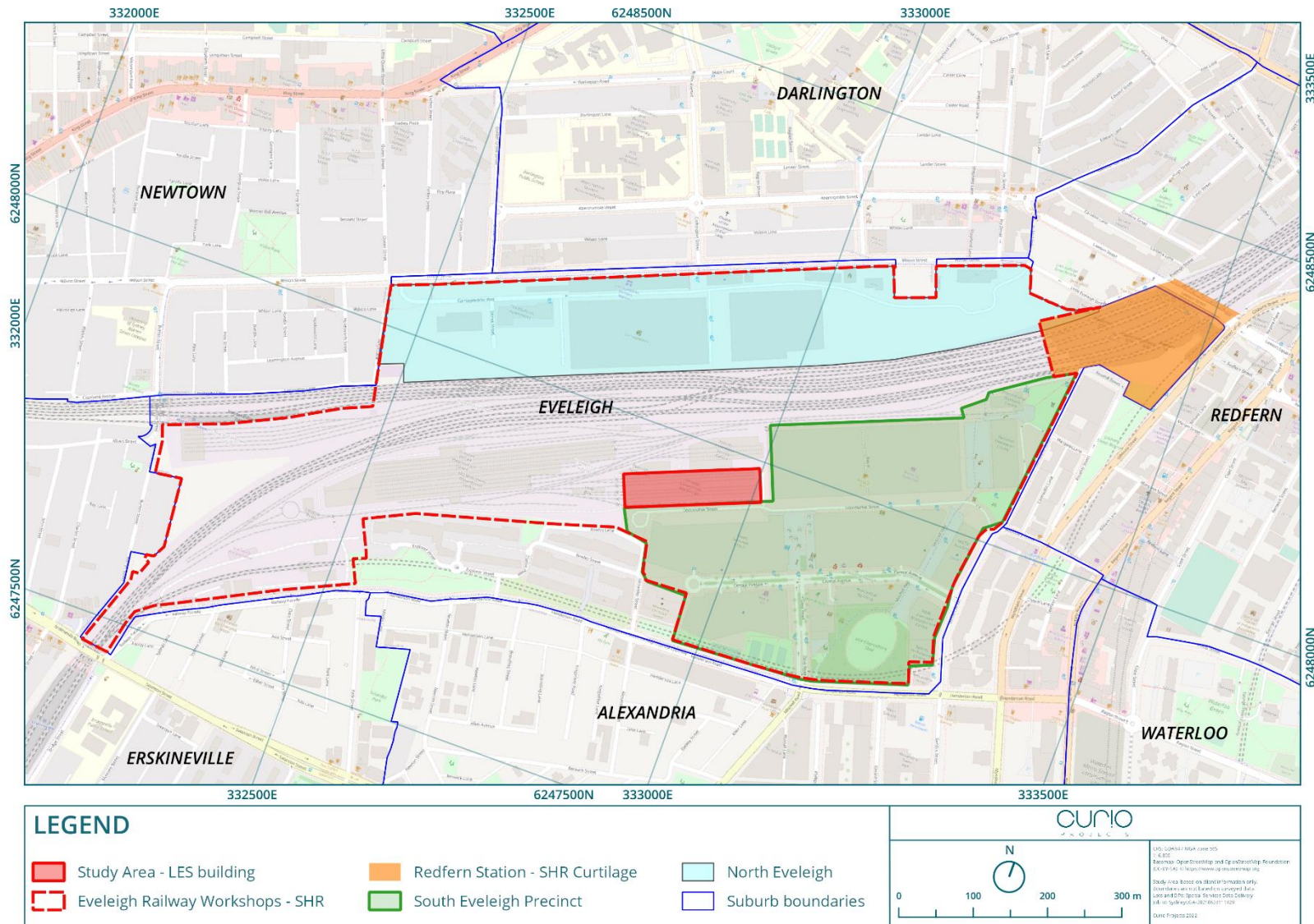


Figure 1.3: Study area in context of Eveleigh Railway Workshops and surrounding precinct (Source: Curio)



Figure 1.4: Eastern elevation of the LES (Source: Mirvac 2022)



Figure 1.5: Southern Elevation of the LES with train located along southern boundary (Source: Mirvac)

1.5. Proposed Controls

The proposed amendments to the Precincts SEPP involve the inclusion of the LES site within the 'Business Zone—Business Park' zone, which applies to the majority of the South Eveleigh Precinct and notably is the existing zoning for the adjacent Locomotive Workshop.

Further, the State-led rezoning application proposes new development standards including a maximum gross floor area (GFA) control on the LES site of up to 15,000sqm. Other minor changes as required are being proposed to the Precincts SEPP to facilitate the reuse of the LES building for commercial office and retail purposes.

1.6. Project Vision

The project vision for the LES was outlined in Mirvac's 2022 Project Brief document, is listed below.

- Transform the existing heritage building into an adaptively re-purposed workplace, incorporating largely commercial use and retail amenity
- Provide a positive contribution to the South Eveleigh precinct
- Celebrate the heritage significance of the building
- Provide an interesting and appealing workspace to appeal to a diverse range of tenants

The proposed adaptive use of the LES to accommodate technology jobs is consistent with various Government policies to increase jobs and employment and strengthen NSW position and global recognition in the innovation and technology sector. The objective is to integrate LES into the broader South Eveleigh Precinct with the upgrade of the LES being the final building in the precinct to be adaptively reused to support the vision for a new tech ecosystem.

1.7. Limitations and Constraints

The following report has been prepared using all readily available historical data and documentation available for the subject site and surrounds, including relevant archaeological reports and assessments. The report has been prepared in accordance with the best practice management guidelines issued by NSW Heritage and in accordance with Australia ICOMOS, *The Australian Charter for Places of Cultural Significance*, The Burra Charter, 2013 guidelines.

A Connecting with Country (CwC) framework for the Project is in development and as such, did not inform this document and the assessment of cultural significance for the study area and surrounds. However, the CwC framework will be an essential component of any future works within the study area, including the future SSD works. The statement of cultural significance as presented in this document will be updated in future assessments of Aboriginal cultural heritage, as informed by the CwC framework.

This report does not include assessment of non-Aboriginal heritage values or archaeology, nor any non-heritage related planning controls or requirements.

The report considers heritage matters only, and no other non-heritage matters associated with the proposed redevelopment of the subject site.

1.8. Authorship

This report has been prepared by Mikhaila Chaplin, Archaeologist and Heritage Consultant, with senior review and specialist input undertaken by Sarah McGuinness, Senior Archaeologist. GIS mapping has been undertaken by Andre Fleury, Historian and Archaeologist, Curio Projects.

2. Statutory Context

2. Statutory Context

Aboriginal cultural heritage is governed in NSW by two principal pieces of legislation:

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

2.1. National Parks and Wildlife Act (1974)

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)* (NPW Act), administered by the Aboriginal cultural heritage regulation section of Heritage NSW (HNSW) of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (formerly part of the Office of Environment and Heritage) (OEHL), is the primary legislation that provides statutory protection for all ‘Aboriginal objects’ (Part 6, Section 90) and ‘Aboriginal places’ (Part 6, Section 84) within NSW.

An Aboriginal object is defined through the NPW Act as:

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

The NSW Act provides the definition of ‘harm’ to Aboriginal objects and places as:

“...any act or omission that:

- (a) Destroys, defaces or damages the object or place, or*
- (b) In relation to an object-moves the object from the land on which it had been situated, or*
- (c) Is specified by the regulation, or*
- (d) Causes or permits the object or place to be harmed in a manner referred to in paragraph (a), (b) or (c), (NPW Act 1974).*

The NPW Act also establishes penalties for ‘harm’ to Aboriginal objects and declared Aboriginal places, as well as defences and exemptions for harm. One of the main defences against the harming of Aboriginal objects and cultural material is to seek an AHIP under Section 90 of the NPW Act, under which disturbance to Aboriginal objects could be undertaken, in accordance with requirements of an approved AHIP.

2.1.2. NSW Aboriginal Heritage Statutory Guidelines

In order to best implement and administer the protection afforded to Aboriginal objects and places as through the NPW Act, HNSW have prepared a series of best practice statutory guidelines with regards to Aboriginal heritage. These guidelines are designed to assist developers, landowners, and archaeologists to better understand their statutory obligations with regards to Aboriginal heritage in NSW and implement best practice policies into their investigation of Aboriginal heritage values and archaeology in relation to their land and /or development. This report has been prepared in accordance with these guidelines, including:

- DECCW 2010a, *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW*. (the Due Diligence Code of Practice)

- DECCW 2010b, *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*. (the Code of Practice)
- DECCW 2010c, *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*. (the Consultation Guidelines)
- OEH 2011a, *Guide to Investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW*. (the Guide to Investigating)

2.2. Native Title Act 1993

The *Native Title Act 1993* provides the legislative framework to recognize and protect native title, which recognizes the traditional rights and interests to land and waters of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Under the Native Title Act, native title claimants can make an application to the Federal Court to have their native title recognized by Australian law.

There are currently no native title claims or determinations in place within the study area.

2.3. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The EP&A Act is an 'Act to institute a system of environmental planning and assessment for the state of NSW'. Dependent upon which Part of the EP&A Act a project is to be assessed under, differing requirements and protocols for the assessment of associated Aboriginal cultural heritage may apply.

Part 4, Division 4.1 of the EP&A Act identifies and defines State Significant Development projects (SSD) as those declared under Section 4.36 of the EP&A Act. SSD and State Significant Infrastructure projects (SSI), replace 'Concept Plan' project approvals, in accordance with Part 3A of this Act, which was repealed in 2011.

Where a project is assessed to be an SSD, the process of development approval differs, with certain approvals and legislation no longer applicable to the project. Of relevance to the assessment of Aboriginal heritage for a development, the requirement for an AHIP in accordance with Section 90 of the NPW Act is removed for SSD projects (EP&A Act, Section 89J).

This stage of the Project is not defined as SSD and is therefore still subject to the requirements of the NPW Act.

2.4. City of Sydney Planning Documents and Policies

Aboriginal cultural heritage values have been considered and incorporated into a number of key strategic planning policies developed by the City of Sydney council in an effort to give prominence to the Aboriginal identity of the City of Sydney LGA. *The City of Sydney Plan 2036*¹, *Sustainable Sydney 2030 Strategy*² and the *Eora Economy Development Plan*³ together provide a structural approach to maintaining connections to Sydney's Aboriginal past, as well as the living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This structural approach represents the 'Eora Journey', and is being achieved through:

- Recognition and reconciliation – across all City of Sydney strategic planning policies and community engagement projects.

¹ City of Sydney 2019

² City of Sydney 2017

³ City of Sydney 2016

- Design of the built environment – through strategic and sustainable planning policies and urban design regulations
- Economic opportunities and prosperity – detailed in the Eora Economy Development Plan
- Public art projects and cultural events – such as the Barani/Barrabagu (Yesterday/Tomorrow) and Eora Journey Harbour Walk Storytelling Report
- The construction of a local Aboriginal knowledge and cultural centre

The predominant approach adopted by the City of Sydney council to Aboriginal cultural heritage is one based on the knowledge that ‘the political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities must be embedded in the city’s economic, social, environmental and cultural change’.⁴

2.5. Objectives of Aboriginal Heritage Assessment

The objectives of the Aboriginal cultural heritage study for the LES building, were to:

- Identify Aboriginal community members who can speak for the Country within which the project is located;
- Involve the Aboriginal community in the cultural heritage assessment process, including consultation to determine their opinions with respect to the project and its potential ‘harm’ to their cultural heritage;
- Understand the context of any remnant natural landforms and deposits within the study area;
- Understand the number, extent, type, condition, integrity and archaeological potential of any potential Aboriginal heritage sites and places that may be located within the study area;
- Determine whether the potential Aboriginal sites and places are a component of a wider Aboriginal cultural landscape;
- Understand how any potential physical Aboriginal sites relate to Aboriginal tradition within the wider area;
- Prepare a cultural and scientific values assessment for all identified aspects of Aboriginal cultural heritage associated within the study area;
- Determine how the proposed project may impact any identified Aboriginal cultural heritage;
- Determine where impacts are unavoidable and develop a series of impact mitigation strategies that benefit Aboriginal cultural heritage and the proponent (in close consultation and discussion with the local Aboriginal community); and
- Provide clear recommendations for the conservation of Aboriginal heritage and archaeological values and mitigation of any potential impacts to these values.

⁴ City of Sydney 2017, p.89

3. Aboriginal Community Consultation

3. Aboriginal Community Consultation

Aboriginal community consultation is required for assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage and should be undertaken in the early stages of project planning in order to best guide the development process.

This section documents the process of Aboriginal community consultation that has been undertaken for the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment for the LES study area. Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with Heritage NSW Consultation Guidelines was initiated for the Project on April 2022.

Aboriginal people are recognised as the determinants of their own heritage. Therefore, the process of Aboriginal community consultation for the project seeks to identify social and cultural values of the study area and its surrounds to the local Aboriginal community, in order to identify appropriate and respectful mitigation strategies for any identified impacts to Aboriginal heritage presented by the Project.

The objectives of Aboriginal community consultation, as stated in the Consultation Guidelines is to:

Ensure that Aboriginal people have the opportunity to improve assessment outcomes by:

- *Providing relevant information about the cultural significance and values of the Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s)*
- *Influencing the design of the method to assess cultural and scientific significance of Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s)*
- *Actively contributing to the development of cultural heritage management options and recommendations for any Aboriginal object(s) and/or place(s) within the proposed project area*
- *Commenting on draft assessment reports before they are submitted by the proponent to the OEH*

As this project has been confidential in nature up until this point, a secondary ACHAR with compliant Aboriginal community consultation will be required to assess the physical impacts of the SSDA prior to lodgement. The second ACHAR will be informed by geotechnical results (as recommended in this assessment) and specifics of impact to potentially recommend Aboriginal testing in areas of potential.

3.1. Connecting with Country

Matthew Fellingham from FCAD have been engaged as the CwC advisor for the project. FCAD has been integral to the Co-design so far and has been part of the design team from the outset. Matthew met with Aunty Barb Simmons (La Perouse Land Council) on 13th of May to initiate the CwC process. Consultation with the City of Sydney Aboriginal and Torres Straight Advisory Panel will be undertaken by FCAD as part of the CwC process.

As the CwC is currently in production, this document has not been informed by the framework and any CwC stakeholder consultation. Any future stages of works within the study area will be informed by the CwC, with the statement of significance as detailed in this document to be updated during future assessment.

3.2. Consultation Guidelines Process

A complete log of all communications between Curio Projects and Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) for the project has been provided as Appendix A, while copies of meeting minutes, written correspondence to and response from RAPs etc are attached as Appendix B.

Cultural protocols with regards to RAP requests to censor, redact or omit sensitive cultural information from reports and correspondence have been observed throughout the consultation process. Therefore, some correspondence may be excluded from direct reproduction within this report where requested by project RAPs.

The Aboriginal Community consultation process in accordance with statutory Consultation Guidelines consists of four main stages:

Stage 1 – Notification of project proposal and registration of interest

Stage 2 – Presentation of information about the Proposal Project

Stage 3 – Gathering Information about Cultural Significance

Stage 4 – Review of Draft Cultural Heritage Assessment Report

3.3. Stage 1- Notification of project proposal and registration of interest

The first step in undertaking the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment process is the identification of the Aboriginal community members who can speak for Country in the area of the project (Stage 1).

On behalf of Mirvac, Curio Projects initiated a new process of Aboriginal community consultation for the study area in accordance with Consultation Guidelines in May 2021. In accordance with Stage 1.2 of the consultation guidelines, letters were sent to the relevant statutory bodies on 16 May 2022 to identify the nature and location of the study area, and request names of Aboriginal people who may have an interest in the proposed project area and hold knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and places relevant to the study area.

The statutory bodies contacted during Stage 1.2 were:

- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation- Heritage NSW
- Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC)
- the Registrar- Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983
- the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT)
- Native Title Services Corporation Limited (NTS Corp)
- City of Sydney Council, and
- the Local Land Services (LLS)

All names compiled from Stage 1.2 of the process were then written to via email and/or registered post in 16 March 2021, inviting registration in the process of community consultation for the project. Response was requested within 14 days of the date of the letter.

3.3.1. Registered Aboriginal Parties

As a result of Stage 1.2, nine Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) were identified for the LES, Eveleigh project (listed in alphabetical order below).

- A1 Indigenous Services
- Amanda Hickey Cultural Services

- Aragung
- Butucarbin
- Didge Ngunawal Clan
- Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation
- Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group
- Metropolitan LALC
- Tocomwall

3.4. Stage 2 & 3

Each project RAP was provided with written details of the proposed project and the draft proposed Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment methodology for the project (Stage 2 and 3 of the consultation guidelines). This letter was sent to all project RAPs on 30 May 2022. Request was made for comment and/or review within 28 days of provision of the methodology document. A copy of the methodology document is provided in Appendix B.

A site inspection/initial meeting with project RAPs to discuss the project, and an opportunity to visit the project site was held on 2 June 2022. A list of attendees at the 2 June 2022 site meeting is included in the following.

- Aragung
- Didge Ngunawal Clan
- Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation
- Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group

This consultation informed the development of the project methodology (presented in Appendix C), as well as informing the understanding of the social and cultural value and significance of the site to project RAPs. All feedback and discussion undertaken at this meeting was recorded and is summarised in this ACHAR.

The key responses and comments received about the Stage 2 & 3 project methodology included:

- Significance of the site between central and Redfern where cultural practice would've been within this zone and that culture would've been practiced in and around the LES area as it's terrain would've provided natural shelter from the harsh coastal areas.
- Soil conditions- geotechnical investigations need to be undertaken across the LES study area
- Consultation should continue throughout the life of the project.
- Positive outcome for the ability for public to access the building
- RAPs would like to see Aboriginal heritage interpretation
- Inclusion of native vegetation

The key comments above have been noted, and where relevant addressed in the draft report.

RAP	DATE	COMMENT
Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group	14 June 2022	<p><i>"Thank you for your Methodology for LES project LES, Eveleigh. Here at KYWG we thrive on community engagement, conservation, and land management, within cultural heritage for over 50 years within the Sydney basin and wider area. Are aim being to protect sacred sites and country from urban development and it's in our best interest to pass on knowledge of the area to the best of our ability. For tens of thousands of years Aboriginal people have walked this land. Passing down oral history from generation to generation. This way of life is known to many indigenous people throughout the world, Aboriginal Australia is the oldest living culture to date. For this reason, we must grab hold of any cultural heritage as a last chance to unearth our rich history.</i></p> <p><i>As Aboriginal people we have a strong connection to mother earth, sky, water, and fire, we are spiritual beings who believe in a higher power of biamie. It is the ancient stories of how the earth and life was created long ago, the dreaming and how we continue to dream like our ancestors. This brings me to the importance of the intangible and the astatic aspects of country. Aboriginal people were good at giving back to mother earth, hence why not much is left behind. But the spiritual energy that country holds deep onto stains the land and can never be lost. This feeling we get when stepping foot on an Aboriginal site is aweing of emotions and energy this is intangible to us.</i></p> <p><i>The area is known to for the abundance resources allowing room for sites to be located possibly with in the area. Aboriginal people utilised natural resources to create tools, craft, wood works, stone tool manufacturing and weaving. Aboriginal people utilised canoes to cross the water and to fish. Before colonisation there would have been fresh water sources available to Aboriginal people, along with wells that were dug and claypans could have been utilised for fresh water.</i></p> <p><i>The study area is highly significant to our people as for many years Redfern has been the heart for Sydney Indigenous peoples we have utilised the area as a safe haven. A place were we have fought for our rights as the owners of this land. This brings me to highly recommend a cultural interpretation plan for this project, to recognise and educate the wider community about the oldest continuing culture in the world. There are many ways design, and interpretation can be achieved please don't hesitate to reach out for input.</i></p> <p><i>KYWG agree to your methodology and support your report, we highly recommend you have a interpretation plan following connecting with county framework. We look forward to working alongside you on this project.</i></p>

3.5. Stage 4— Review of Draft Cultural Heritage Assessment Report

The draft ACHAR was provided to all project RAPs for review and comment. This section of the ACHAR has been updated to incorporate RAP comments, feedback and discussion of cultural values provided.

All Aboriginal community consultation has been comprehensively documented to be presented in full within the final ACHAR.

RAP	DATE	COMMENT
Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group	29 June 2022	<i>"The study area is highly significant to us Aboriginal people. We carried out a way of life one with believe systems, lore and kingship. We see fit for any means to uncover our cultural heritage before it is lost, we must unearth the past. The area would have been utilised for fishing and other activities. Our burials are still lost till this day and we must always be mindful of the potential finds. Interpretation is always a key aspect as it is in our best interest to focus on educating the wider community about the oldest continuing culture. We would like to agree to your recommendations and support ACHA, we look forward working alongside you on this project."</i>
DNC	13 June 2022	<i>"DNC has reviewed the draft towards LES Study and statement impact and is happy with Everything."</i>

4. Summary & Analysis of Background Information

4. Summary & Analysis of Background Information

This section summarises the environmental, historical, and archaeological background and context for the study area. This summary serves to place the study area and proposed development into an appropriate regional context. This background assessment has been undertaken in order to provide a holistic understanding of the cultural landscape within which the study area is located. This analysis has been prepared to focus on both the tangible, as well as intangible cultural heritage and Aboriginal history of the region and will assist with the development of appropriate mitigation measures, prior to any non-reversible impact to the site, Aboriginal archaeology and cultural values and significance.

4.1. Aboriginal Ethnohistory

The coastal Dharug or Eora people, occupied central and eastern Sydney area prior to European arrival. The term 'Eora', while used frequently to describe the inhabitants of the Sydney area does not appear to have a basis in Aboriginal ethnography. Rather, the term is a colonial interpretation used to collectively identify Aboriginal people without specific reference to clan or country. As such, the use of the term Eora is not suitable when describing a specific location or Country.

Much of the evidence of traditional Aboriginal lifestyle and economy was disturbed in the early years of European settlement and much of our information on the local people is based on ethnohistorical sources.

The Gadigal people living in the area would have pursued a mixed food economy in the region, utilising and relying upon the abundant natural resources of the area including marine resources from Sydney harbour, and surrounding waters, hunting terrestrial mammals, as well as collecting and processing local plants. The area included a range of natural environments and resources available. Accessing food was acquired through fishing, shellfish collection, hunting and gathering of small plants and animals. The area surrounding the study area included swamps, bays and estuarine mud flats which likely provided reliable resources of fish, shellfish, and crustacean groups. Besides a range of plant and animal foods within the study area, the landscape offered a variety of medicinal plants and raw materials used for shelters, the manufacture of tools, weapons and for ceremonial purposes such as body decoration.⁵

Swamps and waterlines were located surrounding the study area, for example, east of the site was a large swamp that is located where Redfern Park is today, and Blackwattle Swamp was located north west of the study area. Shea's Creek and Blackwattle Creek both connected to these water ways. A traditional Aboriginal pathway ran in the area between Eveleigh and Central Station which was on a higher ground with watercourses located in low-lying areas.

4.2. Early Contact Period

In the first few years of colonisation, historical records describe numerous accounts of contact between settlers and Aboriginal inhabitants, many of which highlight the cultural disturbance and conflict between them. As settlers began to fish, clear land, and shoot game, Aboriginal society and spiritual life was greatly affected.

Soon after the arrival of the First Fleet in January 1788, Governor Phillip reported to Lord Sydney in England an estimate of at least 1500 Aboriginal people living along the coastal region between Broken Bay and Botany Bay at that time.⁶ The arrival of the First Fleet devastated the lives and activities of

⁵ GML 2013

⁶ Attenbrow 2010

Aboriginal people of the Sydney Harbour area, restricting access to areas traditionally used for hunting and gathering, shelter and for ceremonial purposes, while introducing devastating diseases. Within the first three years of European settlement, an estimated fifty to ninety percent of Aboriginal people in the Sydney area died from smallpox. Most of the clans around Port Jackson were completely wiped out.⁷

Serious documentation of local Aboriginal culture and history by early amateur and professional anthropologists was not properly undertaken until around the 1890s. At this point in time many surviving Aboriginal people from local and surrounding groups were living in fringe camps, on properties (owned by non-Aboriginal people), missions, and reserves.

During that period of time, there were many constraints and barriers which adversely impacted on cultural continuance. Despite these constraints and barriers, levels of traditional knowledge and practices have been carried on in Redfern and its surrounding areas.

4.3. Non- Aboriginal History of the Study Area

A summary of the historical context of the study area is outlined in the following sections. For a comprehensive study of the non-Aboriginal history of the study area, please refer Curio Project's 2022 *Non-Aboriginal Heritage Study* prepared for Mirvac.

4.3.1. Early Land Grants

The land that makes up the Eveleigh Locomotive Workshops was originally part of a land grant given to John Davis in 1794. The grant was soon cancelled however, and the land itself ultimately became part of a 62-acre grant given to James Chisholm in 1835. Chisholm, who had arrived in NSW in 1790 as a soldier in the NSW Corps, would build himself a modest home in the northeast corner of the estate in 1820-1830. This house would be known as 'Calder House' and was occupied by Chisholm's widow and family for 18 years after his death in 1837. In 1855 the Chisholm estate would be separated into two parts by the construction of the western rail line running from Sydney to Parramatta and was eventually selected to be the site for the Rail Workshops in 1875⁸. Surrounding the Chisholm estate were two other land grants to the north and east. These included a 52-acre grant given to ex-convict William Hutchinson, and a 95-acre grant given to free settler William Chippendale, both in 1819. Both plots of land would later be subdivided into farmyards and estates, and then later into the familiar Redfern residential blocks in the 1850's⁹.

⁷ Attenbrow 2010

⁸ Otto Cserhalmi + Partners 2002a, *Eveleigh Carriage Workshops: Conservation Management Plan- Volume 1*, Prepared for State Rail Authority of NSW.

⁹ OCP Architects 2017a, *ERW- Overarching Conservation Management Plan (DRAFT)*, Prepared for UrbanGrowth NSW.

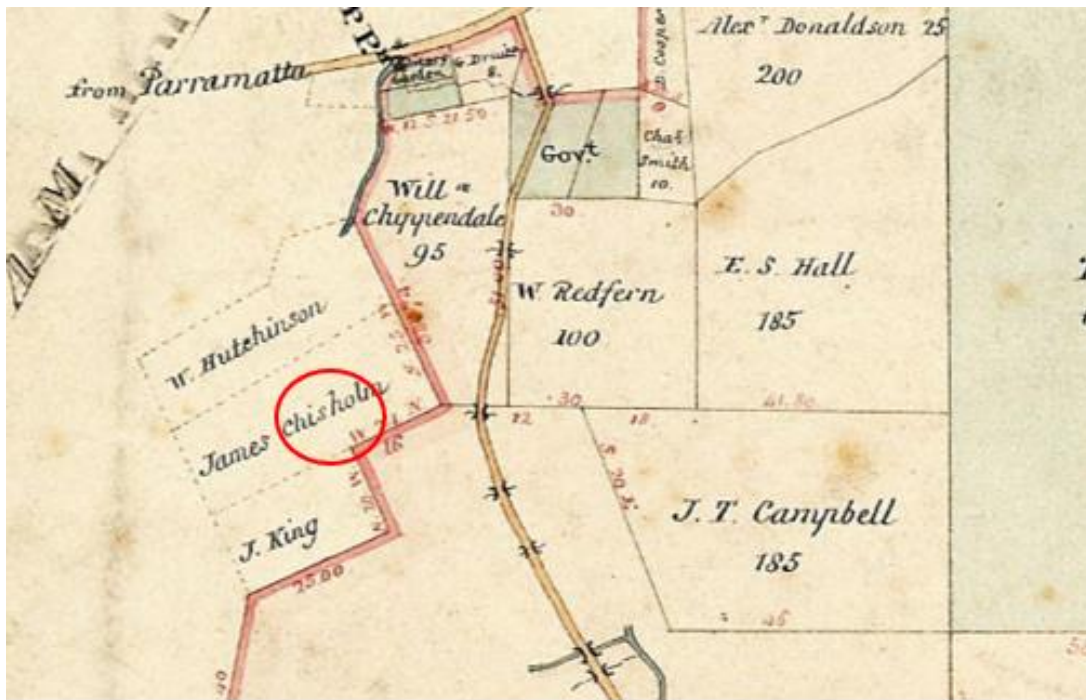


Figure 4.1: Undated map of Parish of Alexandria, early land grants. General area of the LES indicated in red (Source: Historical Lands Record Viewer)

4.3.2. Eveleigh Railway Workshops

After the opening of the Sydney to Parramatta railway line in 1855, the growth of railway infrastructure and locomotive usage skyrocketed. With this growth came an increasing demand for a place to construct and maintain the state's ever-growing fleet of rail locomotives, to replace the now inadequate Sydney Terminal yards near the inner city¹⁰. Planning for this new railway workshop commenced in 1875 and would involve the resumption of the Chisholm estate, land preparation, and finally the construction of the Eveleigh workshops in 1885. Finishing in 1887, the new Eveleigh Railway Workshops consisted of the Locomotive Workshops on the southern side of the railway line, with the Carriage Workshops taking the space on the northern side.

The Eveleigh Railway Workshops would become among the most important drivers in the expansion and development of the NSW Railway line, and therefore the growth of the entire state of NSW. Making use of then-state of the art iron and steel technology, the southern Locomotive workshops consisted of four main buildings, as well as several ancillary operations were also undertaken in other buildings around the site¹¹. These four major buildings were the Locomotive workshops themselves, the Engine Running Sheds, the New Locomotive Shop, and the Large Erecting Shop¹². The largest and most prominent of these was the Locomotive Workshops, which consisted of 16 bays of equal size, with internal hollow-cast iron columns and wrought iron trusses, all topped with corrugated iron roofing. In the building's initial form Bays 1-4 and bays 5-15 were two separate structures, separated with by a laneway, but the two were united and the laneway renamed Bay 4a¹³.

¹⁰ OCP Architects 2017a

¹¹ OCP Architects 2017a, p.28

¹² Simpson Dawbin, 2003. Large Erecting Shop HIP, p. 52

After the opening of the Eveleigh Railway Workshops in 1887, it became one of the biggest employers for Aboriginal people, hiring them in the foundries, boiler rooms and workshops. The railway established easy access route to the area and soon other local companies in close proximity to Eveleigh, such as Henry Jones & Co, IXL Jam Factory and the Australian Glass Manufacturers, began to employ Aboriginal people as well. There is also evidence of Aboriginal workers at ERW participating in the general strike of 1917.

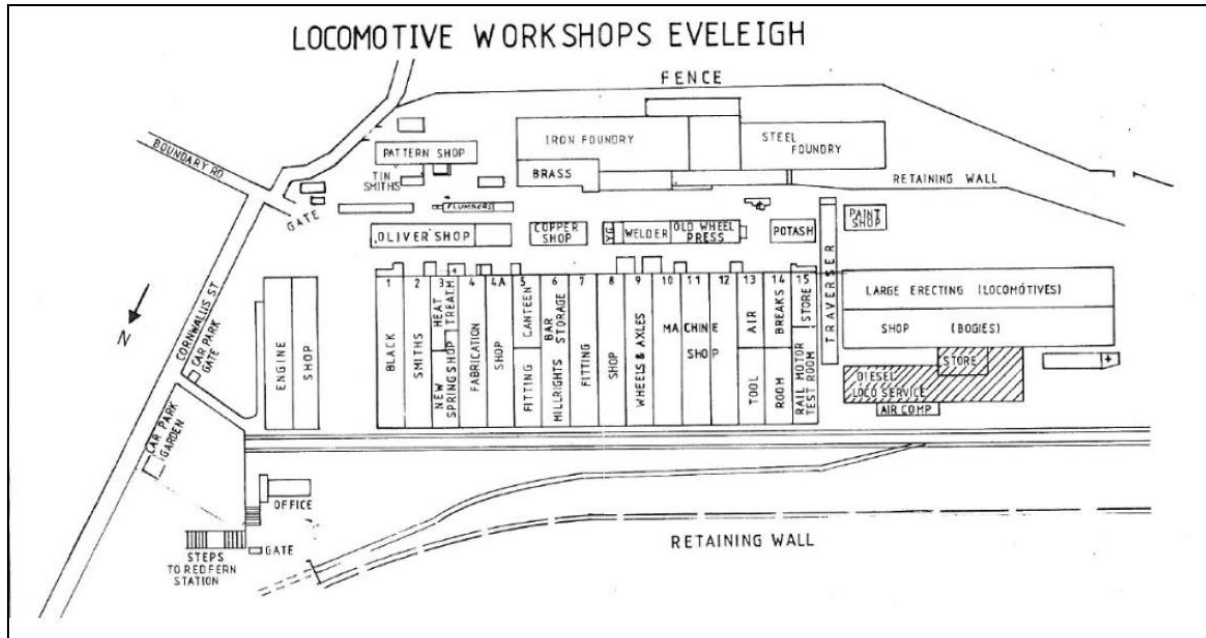


Figure 4.2: c1980s Plan of Locomotive Workshops Eveleigh (Source: Futurepast & Taksa 2011)

4.3.3. Large Erecting Shop

The Eveleigh Locomotive Workshops also included an in-house erecting shop, taking up bays 5-8¹⁴. Originating in English railway traditions of the mid-19th century, the term of 'erecting' refers in this context to both the construction of a steam locomotive from its various component parts, as well as the overhaul of a locomotive via dismantling, repair or reconstruction, and then subsequent reassembly¹⁵. While this original erecting shop could hold 24 engines and 12 tenders for construction and repair, it soon became apparent that even this was not enough. To answer this demand, a new erecting shop was built in 1899 to supplement and eventually replace the increasingly inadequate working space of the original building's shop. Initial plans for this building name it simply as the 'Erecting Shop', and documents from the 1900 give it the name '*New Erecting Shop*' to differentiate it from the old shop within the main building¹⁶. When the *New Locomotive Workshop* was built to the west of the main workshop, to avoid confusion, the erecting shop was subsequently referred to as the '*Large Erecting Shop*' (LES) or '*The Large*' colloquially¹⁷.

¹⁴ NSW Railways, F Fewtrell, internally written 'History of Eveleigh Workshops' for Chief Mechanical Engineer, 1955, NSW Railways Mechanical Branch File No. 55/1 0322-39, p 1

¹⁵ Simpson Dawbin, 2003. Large Erecting Shop HIP, p. 10

¹⁶ NSW Railways, Plan Nos. 38 -1/10 inclusive; NSW Railways, Railway Budget, July 21, 1900, p 240.

¹⁷ Fewtrell, op cit, p 2; NSW Railways, data-card formerly held by Archives section, copy held by Godden, Mackay, Logan, Redfern; NSW Railways, Mechanical Branch Shop Order, 28/6/1899; NSW

In 1919 a new foundry building was constructed to the south-east of the LES, replacing a similar building to the north.¹⁸ The older, northern building was converted to a repair station for boilers, smokeboxes, and ashpans coming from the main Locomotive Workshops, but soon move to predominantly repair boilers coming from the adjacent LES¹⁹.

In 1919 a new foundry building was constructed to the south-east of the LES, replacing a similar building to the north. The older, northern building was converted to a repair station for boilers, smokeboxes, and ashpans coming from the main Locomotive Workshops, but soon move to predominantly repair boilers coming from the adjacent LES²⁰. In 1937 the 'Old' Erecting Shop located in the main Locomotive Workshops building was finally closed for good and was officially replaced by a new erecting shop located in the Chullora Locomotive Works, which would gradually take over the more modern aspects of locomotive construction and repair, namely the newer and more complicated C36's and 057 steam engines²¹. These steam engines gradually became less and less common on NSW railways, and by the late 1960's the Large Erecting Shop was changing to the repair and overhaul of diesel engines instead. By 1970, work on steam engines was no longer undertaken at all at the LES²². By 1981 a final decision was made to relocate all state locomotive work to the workshop at Chullora, and the LES was leased to the heritage steam train operator company 3801 Limited, in 1985²³. 3801 Limited would retain the LES as a location for the storage and maintenance of heritage diesel engines and eventually heritage electric trains. In 2017, 3801 Limited terminated its use of the Large Erecting Shop²⁴.

The Large Erecting Shop soon became one of the most important parts of the overall Locomotive Workshops, acting as both the birthplace of the finished steam engines and as a reoccurring location in their lives. Work in the LES was known to be extremely dirty, noisy, and dangerous, but necessary, with fitters and turners in particular speaking of 'their time in the 'large' as one of the key parts of their basic training²⁵. The Illustrated Sydney News puts it eloquently, describing the LES as the among the most important places in a locomotive's life:

"This is the hospital of the steam engine, which makes its start in life from here, returns from time to time for repairs during its career, and comes back finally, when worn out, for dismantlement-the locomotive's death." (Illustrated Sydney News, 18 June 1891)²⁶

¹⁸ Railways, Mechanical Branch, Locomotive Accountants data -card for Large Erecting Shop, No. 2/1 of 1899

¹⁹ Simpson Dawbin, 2003. Large Erecting Shop HIP, p. 14

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ Locomotive Accountants card; for Loco erecting Shop, No. 1/1 ; Fewtrell, op cit, p 2.

²² Simpson Dawbin, 2003. Large Erecting Shop HIP, p. 15

²³ Ibid

²⁴ Ben Graham, '3801 Limited cancels heritage train service after group locked out of Eveleigh rail workshops', *The Daily Telegraph*, March 9, 2017.

²⁵ Simpson Dawbin, 2003. Large Erecting Shop HIP, p. 16-17

²⁶ The N.S.W Railway Workshops at Eveleigh: A State Enterprise' *Illustrated Sydney News*, Sat 18 July, 1891, p.12



Figure 4.3: A steam locomotive engine is lifted off its wheelset and bogie by a crane in the LES. Note the access pit in between the tracks for working on the underside of the engine (Source: NSW State Archives)

4.3.4. General Historical Summary Timeline of the LES

The table below presents an outline of the general historical timeline of the study area.

Year	Event
Pre-1788	The Gadigal clans are historically associated with the study area.
1835	Land becomes part of land grant to James Chisholm and is known as the Chisholm Estate (and dairy farm)
1855	NSW first rail line constructed, bisecting Chisholm land at Eveleigh
1887	Eveleigh Railway Workshops constructed, consisting of the Locomotive Workshops and the Carriage Workshops
1899	Large Erecting Shop completed
c1901	Traverser No. 1 installed between Locomotive Workshops and Large Erecting Shop, following removal of earlier steam Ground Traversers from Bay 17 and 23 of Carriage Workshops Building.
1906	Large Erecting Shop is extended, adding an additional 10 bays, and increasing floorspace by 50%
1919	New foundry building constructed to the South-East of the LES
1924	Two additional overhead travelling cranes are installed into the LES
1937	'Old' Erecting Shop in main Eveleigh building is closed and facilities transferred to new Workshops in Chullora
1952	Two offices for sub-foremen with power points and lighting were installed and some pits were deepened 'after a trial'.
1957	In the 1950's, lighting was significantly improved and installed into the LES, as well as five additional power points for equipment and machines.
1965+	LES is altered for the repair and overhaul of diesel engines in addition to steam engines
1970	LES now exclusively repairs diesel engine locomotives
1981	All state-owned locomotive work is moved to the Chullora workshops
1985	Eveleigh Locomotive Workshops are closed, and LES is leased to the heritage steam train operator company, 3801 Limited
2009	Eveleigh Locomotive Workshops are redeveloped into Australian Technology Park
2017	Limited 3801 terminates its use of the LES

4.4. Development of the Study Area

Figure 4.4 to Figure 4.10 offers a plan view of the development of the LES study area via historical maps and aerials

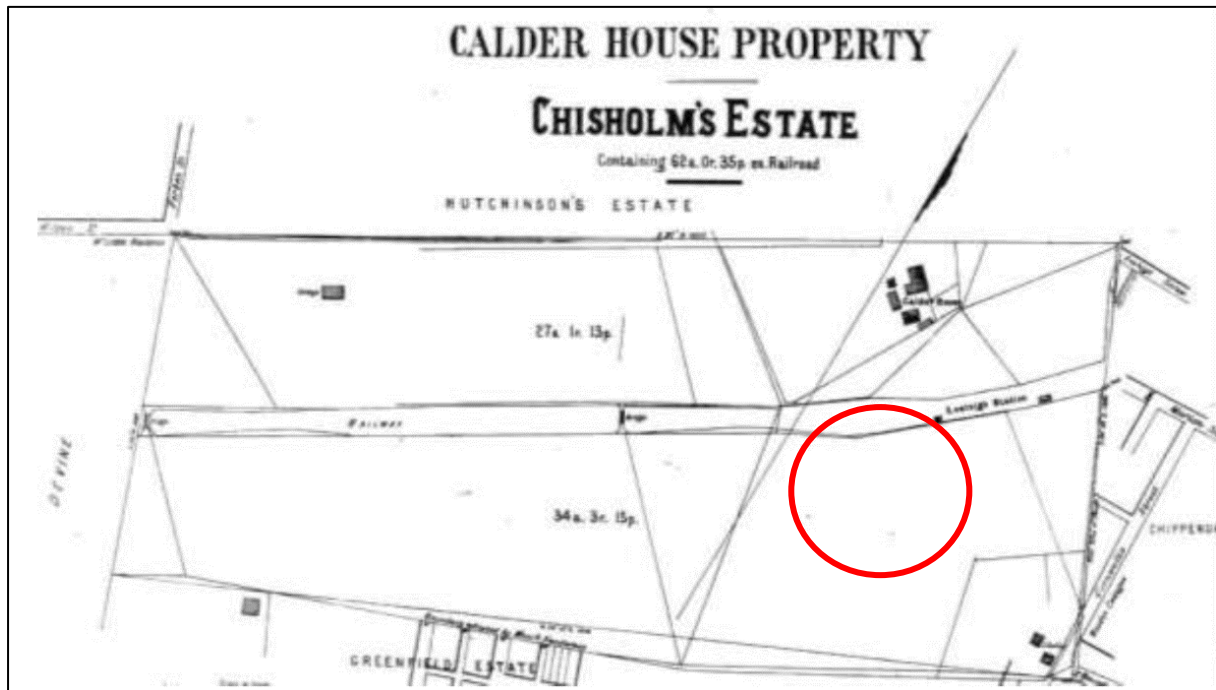


Figure 4.4: Chisholm Estate. General location of LES study area circled in red. (Source: Australian Railway Historical Society, Eveleigh 1)

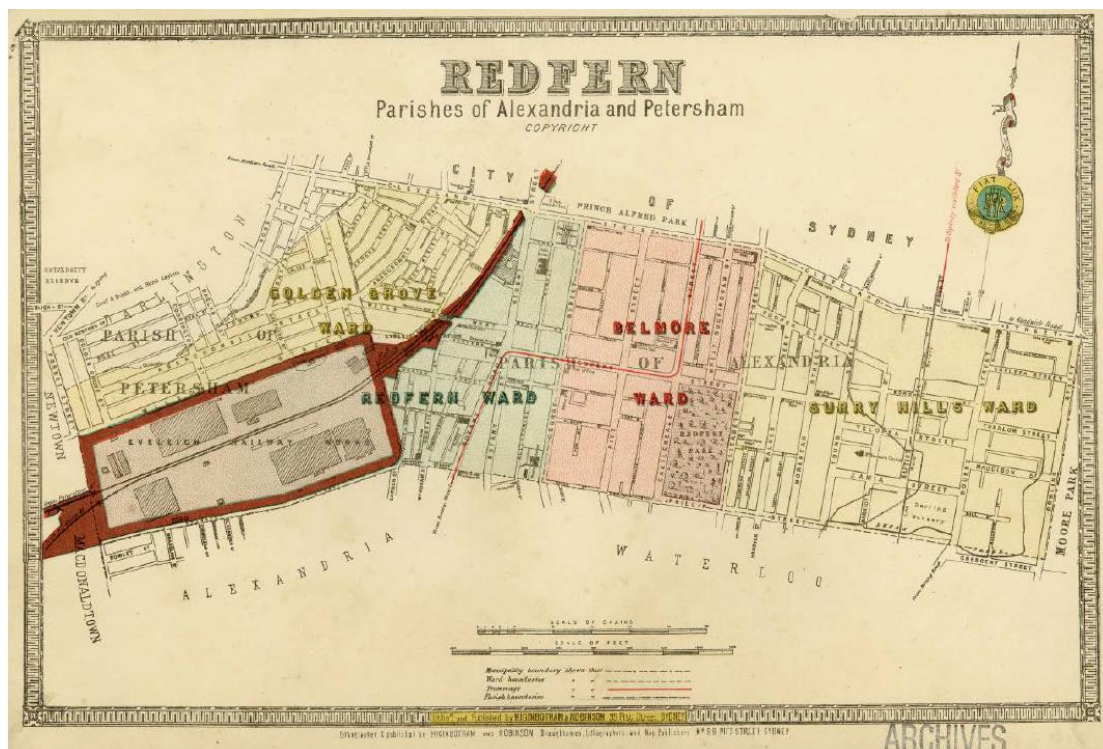


Figure 4.5: Parish of Alexandria and Petersham Map of Redfern (Source: City of Sydney Archives, 1-00530188, 1193-33)

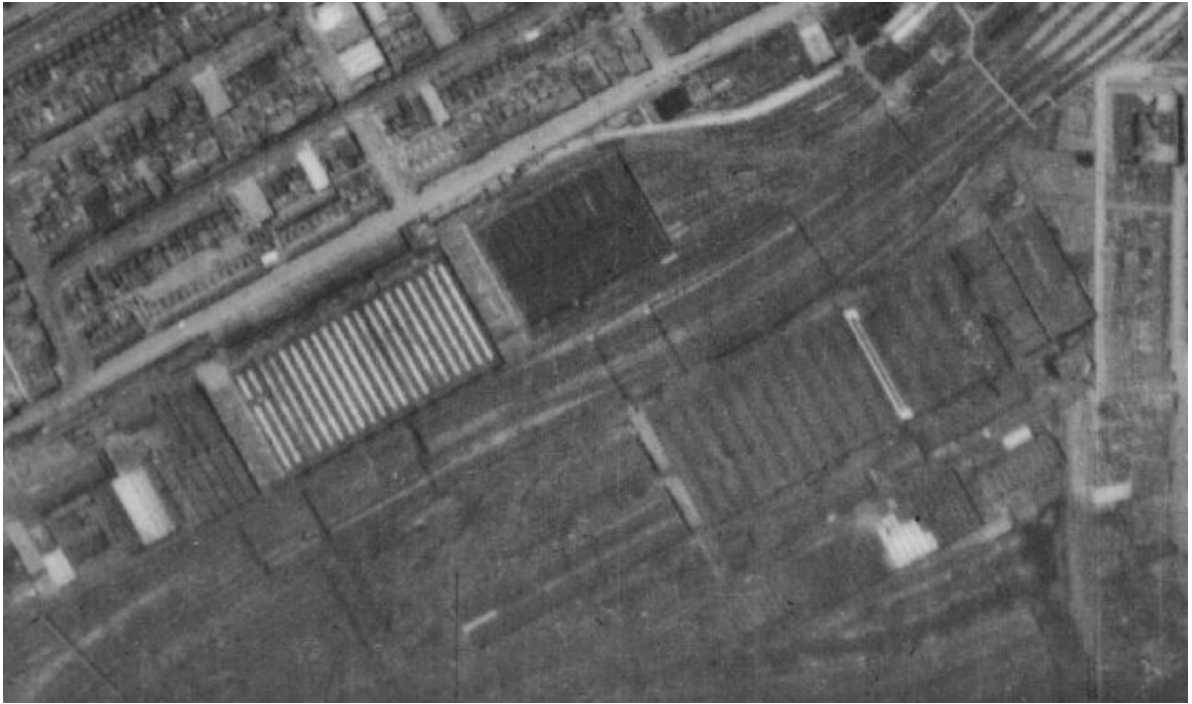


Figure 4.6: The study area in 1930 (Source: NSW Historical Image Viewer accessed at <https://portal.spatial.nsw.gov.au/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=f7c215b873864d44bccdda8075238cb>)



Figure 4.7: The study area in 1949 (Source: NSW Historical Image Viewer accessed at <https://portal.spatial.nsw.gov.au/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=f7c215b873864d44bccdda8075238cb>)



Figure 4.8: The study area in 1986 (Source: NSW Historical Image Viewer, accessed at <https://portal.spatial.nsw.gov.au/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=f7c215b873864d44bccdda8075238cb>)



Figure 4.9: The study area in 1998 (Source: NSW Historical Image Viewer, accessed at <https://portal.spatial.nsw.gov.au/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=f7c215b873864d44bccdda8075238cb>)



Figure 4.10: The study area in 2022 (Source: Six Maps. Accessed at <https://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/>)

4.5. Contemporary History

The study area is situated in direct proximity to Redfern, which has always been a strong Aboriginal presence in Redfern and the area became the centre of Aboriginal efforts to acquire civil rights.²⁷ From the late 1920s, an increasing number of Aboriginal people migrated to Sydney, partially due to the impact of the Depression, and the closure of Aboriginal reserves by the Aboriginal Protection Board. The 1930s saw Aboriginal people from all over NSW relocating to Sydney's working-class suburbs like Redfern, Glebe, Pyrmont, and Balmain, seeking work opportunities on nearby railways and workshops. By the 1930s Redfern was a solid witness to the formation of its distinct Aboriginal community, which still exists today.²⁸ Aboriginal people also found work opportunities in the markets, meatworks and in factories in the Redfern and Alexandria areas and surrounds.

Australia's first Aboriginal-run health, legal, and children's services was established in Redfern in the 1970s, one of the early examples being 'The Block', founded in 1972 to support Aboriginal people who, due to discrimination and racism, struggled to enter the rental market. The ongoing community significance of 'The Block' was demonstrated by the establishment of an Aboriginal Tent Embassy at 'The Block' in 2014 to protest against a decision by the Aboriginal Housing Company to commercialise the land.²⁹

The below description of significance of modern Aboriginal life and culture in Redfern has been extracted from the Heritage Interpretation Strategy for 'The Block'.

Virtually unique to Redfern and Darlington was the entry of the large numbers of Aboriginal people, some who had been there since the early twentieth century and

²⁷ OEH 2006

²⁸ Irish 2017

²⁹ Creative Spirits 2018

others who came following changes in legislation regulating their movement in the 1900s.

Aboriginal people from rural areas started moving into Redfern and the surrounding area during the 1920s because it was located centrally, and rents were cheap. Also, the workshops in Redfern and nearby Chippendale offered the possibility of regular work. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, many Aboriginal people sought refuge with relatives in the Redfern area as work in rural areas became scarce. The Eveleigh Railway Workshops was the largest employer of Redfern's residents.

... After World War II, there was a large Aboriginal population shift back into Redfern seeking refuge with relatives concentrated in and around 'The Block'. This followed moves by Randwick Council to close the shanty towns at La Perouse.

By the early 1960s, the Aboriginal population of Redfern was estimated at over 12,000 people. During the decade, an emerging social crisis arose in the community, involving alcohol, drugs and crime. This was coupled with discrimination and high unemployment among the Aboriginal community. Living conditions for local Aboriginal people declined rapidly over the course of the next two decades as people were at the mercy of disreputable and/or absentee landlords. The housing stock, predominantly cheap rental accommodation built in the 19th century, became run down and fell into disrepair. The led to growing criticism of Redfern as a 'slum' area.

The Aboriginal population of Redfern swelled in the wake of the 1967 National Referendum on Aborigines, reaching more than 35,000.

... The resulting Aboriginal Housing Company (AHC) was the first community housing collective in Australia. Incorporated in 1973 the Company was formed in direct response to the widespread discrimination the Aboriginal people experienced in the private rental market. The AHC subsequently acquired 27 derelict houses on 'The Block' bounded by Vine, Eveleigh, Caroline and Louis Streets. The properties were renovated with Aboriginal employment and training by the AHC.³⁰

Two hundred years after European invasion and the displacement of Sydney's traditional owners, there are still many Aboriginal people with traditional connections to Country living in the region, as well as Aboriginal people whose families may originally come from other areas of NSW and Australia, but who have made their home in Redfern and surrounds now for generations. There are many opportunities and places within Redfern and the surrounding area that not only illustrate Aboriginal cultural heritage but are an important legacy for present and future generations of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

4.6. Physical Setting & Landscape Context

The physical setting of the study area, its natural resources, landforms, and wider landscape setting has a significant influence over the nature, location, and form of Aboriginal occupation and use patterns through their interactions with the land (tangible values and site), while also providing meaningful landscape context for intangible heritage and connection to Country.

³⁰ NBRS Partners 2011:7-8

4.6.1. Soils & Geology

Located 3.5km southwest of the Sydney CBD, Eveleigh's geology consists of gently undulating rises on Wianamatta Group shales and Hawkesbury shales. The Aeolian dune fields are part of the Botany Lowlands dune system which stretches across Botany, Randwick and South Sydney and are made up of Holocene and Pleistocene Quaternary wind-blown marine quartz fine grained sand. The study area has been mapped to sit on the boundary of the Aeolian dune fields and the Pre-Quaternary basement.

The Triassic Age Ashfield Shale is overlain by the Blacktown (bt) Soil Landscape. Blacktown soils are associated with gently undulating rises on Wianamatta Group shales and Hawkesbury shales with a local relief of 30m.³¹ Soil presentations of the Blacktown Soil Landscape are described further in the sub-section below.

While technically mapped within the Blacktown soil landscape, the study area is also close to the boundary of the Tuggerah (tg) soil landscape to the east (Figure 4.13). The tg soil landscape is comprised of undulating Aeolian dune fields overlaying Triassic Ashfield Shale and Triassic Hawkesbury Sandstone³².

Blacktown Soil Landscape

The study area falls within the bt soil landscape zone as seen in Figure 4.11. The bt soil landscape has been typically described as³³:

- Gently undulating rises with a local relief of 10-30m, slopes 5-10%. Cleared eucalypt woodland and tall open forest.
- Soils are moderately deep (<100cm) red and brown podzolic soils on crests, upper slopes/ drained areas and deep (150-300cm) with yellow podzolic soils and soloths on slower slopes and poorly drained areas.
- Low soil fertility, poor soil drainage and moderately reactive highly plastic subsoil

The Blacktown soils are made up of the following dominant soils:³⁴

- Friable brownish-black loam (**bt1**). Rounded shale fragments and charcoal fragments are sometimes present. Roots are common.
- Hardsetting brown clay loam (**bt2**). Shale fragments are common. Charcoal fragments and roots are rarely present.
- Strongly pedal, mottled brown light clay (**bt3**). Shale fragments are common. Roots and charcoal are rare.
- Light grey plastic mottled clay (**bt4**). Ironstone concretions and rock fragments are common. Shale fragments and roots occasionally present. Charcoal fragments are rare.

Blacktown soils have the potential to hold subsurface Aboriginal objects in the topsoils (bt1 and bt2), while the clay subsoils (bt3 and bt4) are considered to be culturally sterile as they were formed prior to the occupation of Australia by Aboriginal people.³⁵

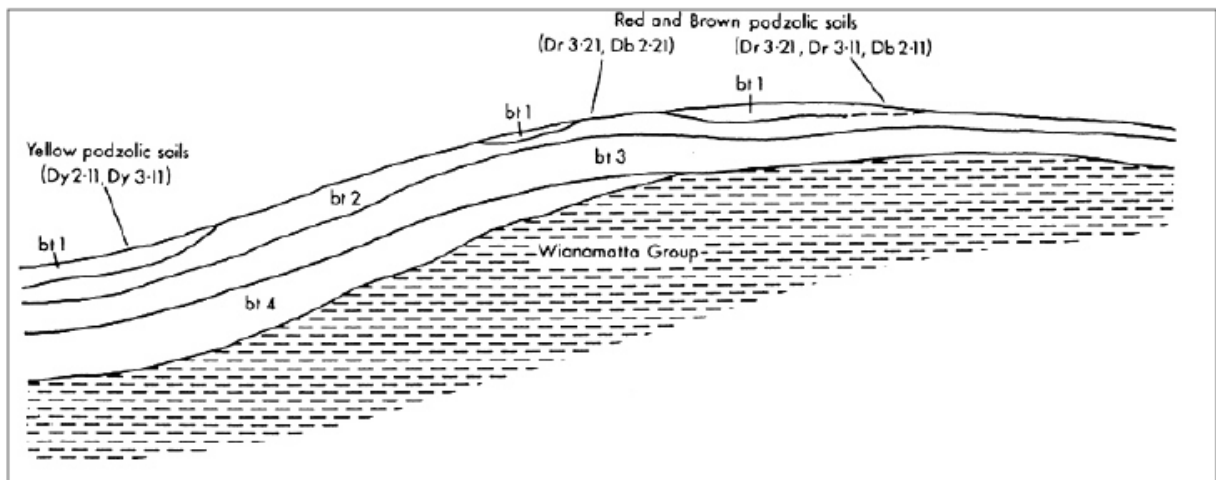
³¹ Chapman & Murphy 1989

³² Chapman & Murphy 1989

³³ Chapman & Murphy 1989

³⁴ Ibid

³⁵ Steele, D, 2019, *Aboriginal Due Diligence Assessment, Glengarrie Road, Marsden Park, NSW*, Report to Architex.



Schematic cross-section of Blacktown soil landscape illustrating the occurrence and relationship of the dominant soil materials.

Figure 4.11: Schematic cross section of Tuggerah soil landscape illustrating the occurrence and relationship of the dominant soil materials (Source: Data NSW)

Tuggerah Soil Landscape

The Tuggerah soils (Figure 4.12) are made up of the following dominant soils:³⁶

- Loose speckled grey-brown loamy sand (**tg1**). Mix of small dark organic inclusions and charcoal fragments often present. It generally occurs as a topsoil (A-horizon).
- Bleached loose sand (**tg2**). Charcoal and stones relatively absent and roots are rare.
- Grey-brown mottled sand (**tg3**). Seasonally waterlogged and charcoal and stones are absent and roots are rare.
- Black soft sandy organic pan (**tg4**). Stones, charcoal and roots are absent.
- Brown soft sandy iron pan (**tg5**). Roots are rare, stones and charcoal are absent.
- Yellow massive sand (**tg6**). Stones, charcoal and roots are absent.

The Tuggerah soil landscape has the potential to contain subsurface Aboriginal objects, burials and middens in the topsoil deposits (tg1 and upper tg2), approximately the top 1m of deposit. The deep basal aeolian deposits of tg2 and the intermixed tg4 and tg5 are considered unlikely to contain Aboriginal objects and may be several meters in depth.³⁷

³⁶ Ibid

³⁷ John Holland, 2020, *Sydney Football Stadium Redevelopment- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan*, p15

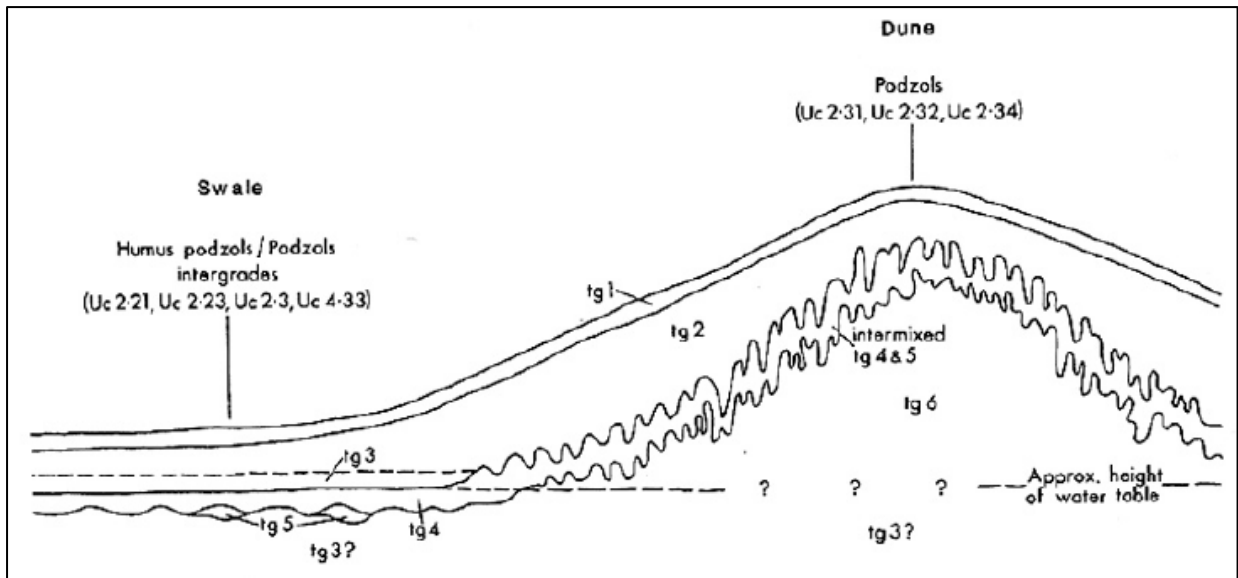


Figure 4.12: Schematic cross-section of Tuggerah soil landscape illustrating the occurrence and relationship of the dominant soil materials (Source: Data NSW))

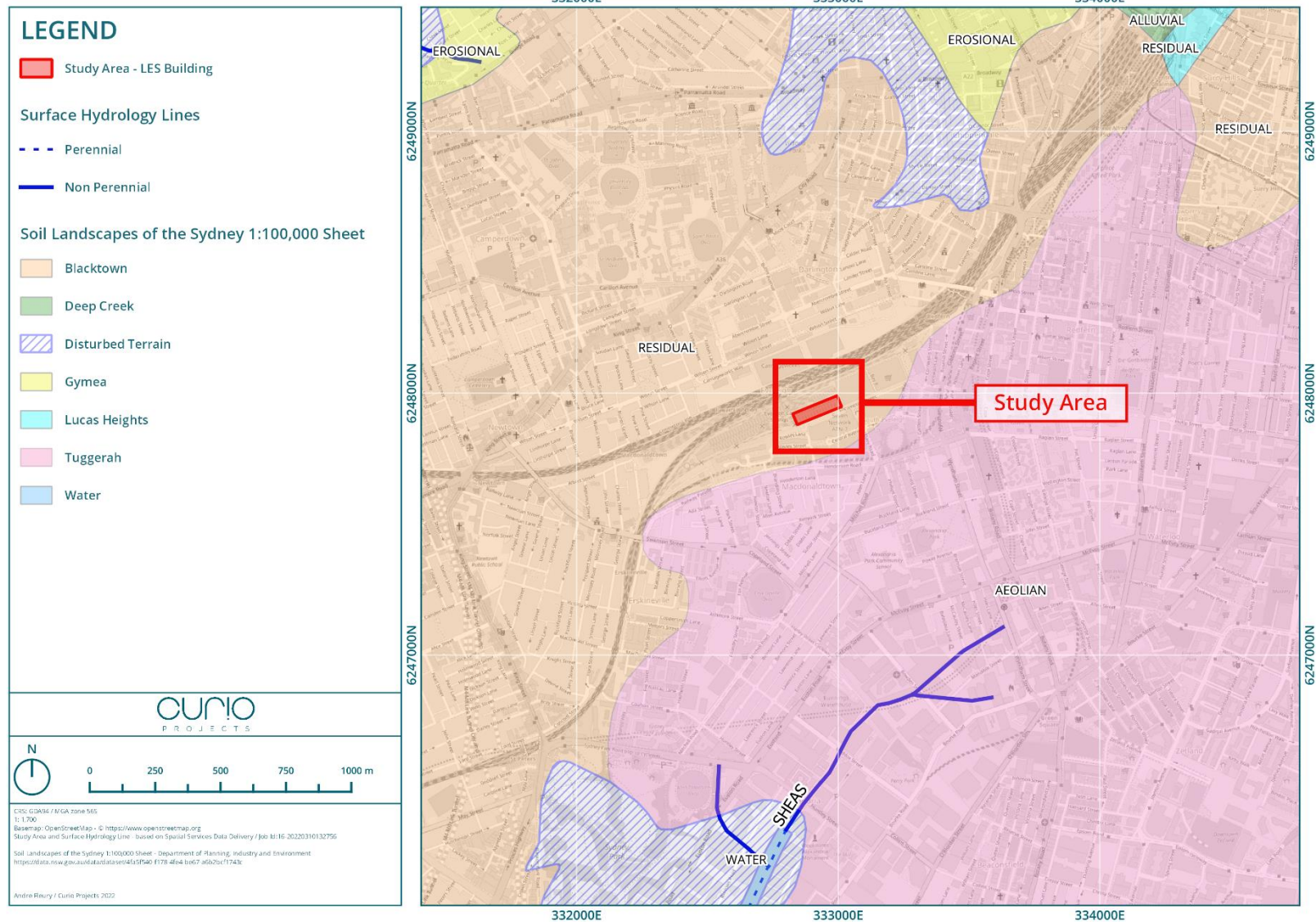


Figure 4.13: Soil Landscape & Topography of the study area and surrounds. Study area in red (Source: Curio)

4.6.2. Hydrology

The hydrology of an area plays an important role in identifying not only areas of occupational, environmental, and archaeological potential, but also in understanding how deposits at a site are formed and/or impacted by hydrology. The effects of hydrology range from the availability of water, to flooding, which impacts both occupation and deposition.

The nature of the undulating dune formation of the Botany Lowland dune system resulted in the presence of a number of smaller drainage lines, swamps and lagoons in swales where water run-off collected. It is likely that the study area would have contained, or been in near proximity to, such perennial water sources.

The nearest significant watercourses to the study area include Blackwattle Creek and Swamp 650m northeast, and Waterloo Swamp and Shea's Creek 800m to the southeast (Figure 4.14). Historical sources indicate that a large swamp area known as 'Boxley's Lagoon' was once located in the general area of what today is Redfern Park, c1km east of the study area. These would have offered near year-round access to water and would have been heavily utilised by the Aboriginal community.

4.6.3. Landscape & Landforms

The topography of the study area is relatively flat and located towards a mid to low point of the side of a valley in the Eveleigh/Erskineville/Alexandria district. There is generally a 1m fall across the study area, from the highest point in the east towards the Locomotive Workshops, sloping down west to the lowest lying area along the western boundary of the study area.

Within the surrounding landscape, the study area sits within the lower landscape between to ridgelines, located northwest of the study area along King Street in Newtown, and to the west generally along Crown Street in Surry Hills.

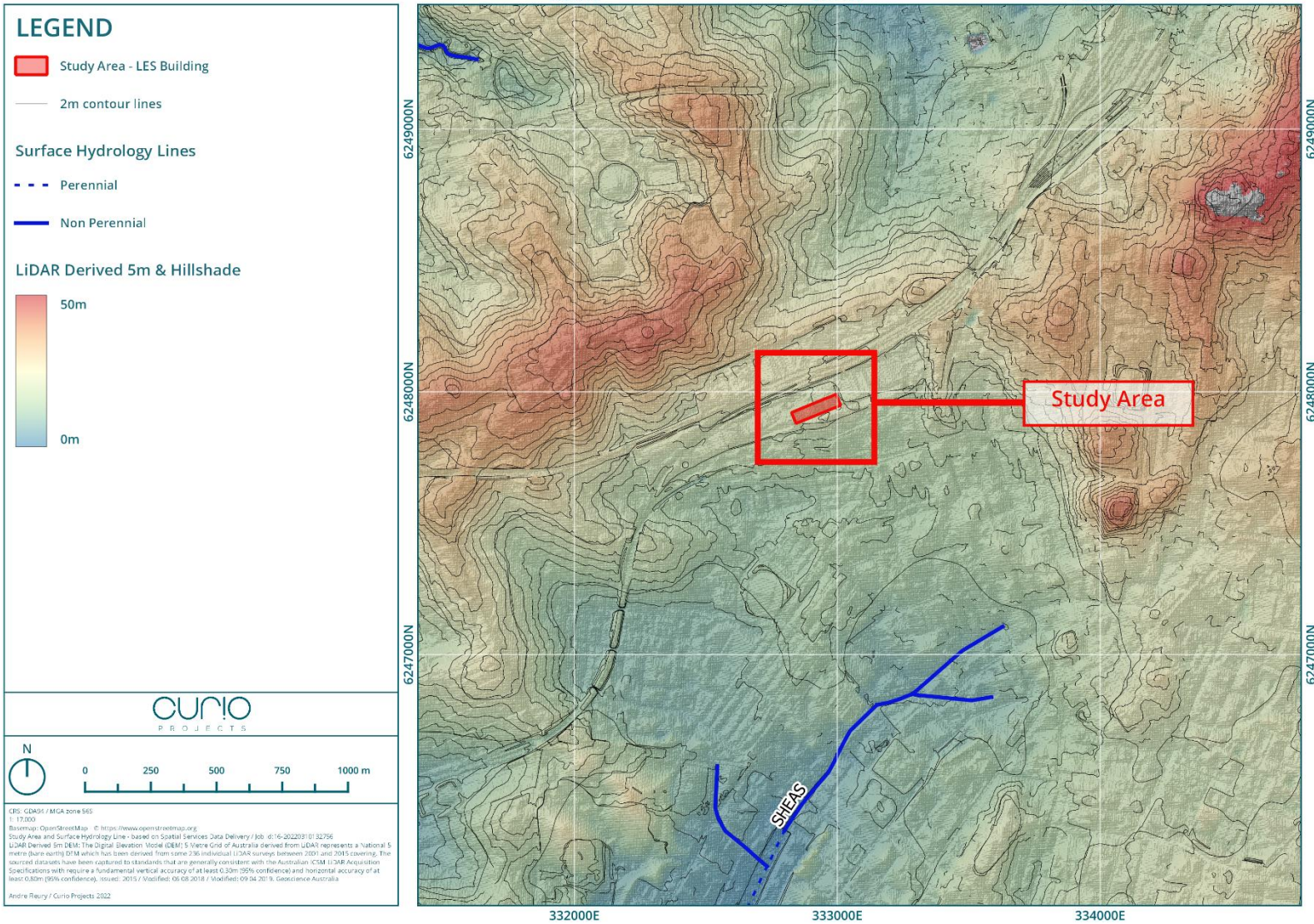


Figure 4.14: Hydrology surrounding the study area (red) (Source: Curio)

4.6.4. Vegetation and Fauna

An understanding of the original vegetation of an area provides information about the resources that such vegetation would have provided to Aboriginal people in the study area, and would have influenced how different locations were accessed, used, and visited. Vegetation can itself be a direct resource- such as tree bark for canoes, shield etc., or edible plants- or it can be an indirect resource, creating habitats for different animals such as possums, birds etc., available for hunting

The study area likely once contained mostly cleared tall open wet sclerophyll forest and open dry sclerophyll woodland. Primary tree species in the dry sclerophyll forest area were once dominated by forest red gum *E. tereticornis*, narrow-leaved ironbark *E. crebra*, grey box *E. moluccana*. Primary tree species in the wet sclerophyll forest include Sydney blue gum *Eucalyptus saligna* and blackbutt *E. pilularis*.

The ways vegetation may have been used by Aboriginal people in the past include the use of Grass Tree stems for making tools like spears and shafts, carrying vessels of bark and woven fiber, digging sticks and a number of other uses.³⁸ The natural vegetation of the area would also have provided habitats for a diverse range of fauna for hunting, and other food resources such as seeds, nectar, fruits, roots and tubers.

Animals that were common within the region consisted of species such as kangaroo, wallaby, wombat, echidna, flying fox, emus, quolls, various native rats and mice, snakes, and lizards. Native animals were used not only as food resources but for other materials such as tool making. For example, tail sinews from mammals like kangaroos, wallabies and possums were used as a fastening cord and claws, talons, bone, skin, teeth, shell, fur and feathers from other animals for a range of other tools and non-utilitarian functions.³⁹

4.6.5. Description of Study Area

The immediate context of the LES study area includes a range of land uses including commercial businesses, residential neighborhoods, retail premises and public recreation areas. The study area is located directly west of the Eveleigh Locomotive Workshops within the South Eveleigh precinct and south of the live railway corridor between Macdonaldtown and Redfern Station. The study area comprises a single lot and currently consists of a single building and attached built elements along its northern façade and a railway line along the southern edge within the study area.

The study area is occupied by a state heritage listed building known as the Large Erecting Shop (LES) fronting Locomotive Street constructed in the 1890s and with later additions along the external northern façade.

4.6.6. Modern Land Use History & Disturbance

Soil disturbances influence Aboriginal archaeological potential either from disturbance and/or the removal of soils that potentially once contained evidence of Aboriginal use/occupation. Intact Aboriginal archaeological deposits of high integrity are usually located within undisturbed topsoils.

The main historical activities specific to the study area that would have potential to impact and/or remove natural soil profiles include:

- Initial European vegetation and land clearance associated with early farming/ agricultural activities in the early 19th century.

³⁸ Artefact 2020

³⁹ Keith 2004

- Construction of the LES building in 1890s (including deeper features such as pits, water drainage lines, service lines).
- Renovations/ upgrades to the LES building

It is noted however than none of the activities described above appear to have included any extensive bulk excavation within the study area such as for a basement or similar.

Geotechnical Investigation

Geotechnical investigations can provide ground truthing and further clarification of the nature of the sub-surface soil and disturbance present at a site. A geotechnical investigation was undertaken within close proximity to the study area in 2017 throughout the footprint of the Locomotive Workshops, just 15m east of the LES (Figure 1.2). This study consisted of ten boreholes, from which an inferred subsurface soil and geological profile has been developed (Figure 4.15).⁴⁰ Generally, Ashfield Shale bedrock is present at depths between 2.3 - 7.9m below the current ground level. Investigation work also concluded that groundwater seepage was present during auguring at depths of 7m below ground surface (BH10).

The soil stratigraphy just east of the study area, as identified by geotechnical investigation consisted of concrete slabs (up to 0.15 to 0.55m in depth) overlying road base or gravelly clayey sand fill (0.3- 1.3m in depth), over a layer of fine to medium grained sand between 1.9 and 2.6m depth (BH1, BH2A, BH4, BH8 and BH10) resting on shale bedrock. Clayey Sand was also encountered within BH1 and BH2A (0.2 to 0.6m thick).

The geotechnical results, while limited to the east outside the study area (due to no geotechnical investigations undertaken to date within the study area), indicate the presence of remnant natural sands underlying fill, as well as suggesting support for the location of the study area across Blacktown soil landscape and at the interface between the Tuggerah soil landscape.

⁴⁰ Douglas Partners 2017

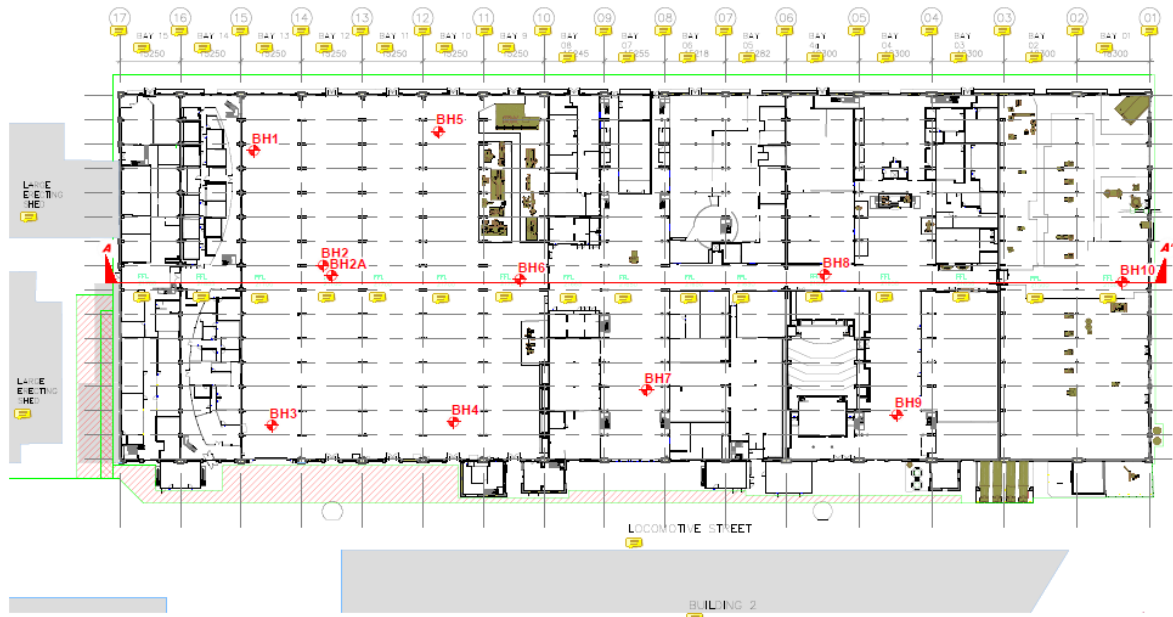


Figure 4.15: Location of Boreholes, Eveleigh Locomotive Shop (Source: Douglas Partners 2017)

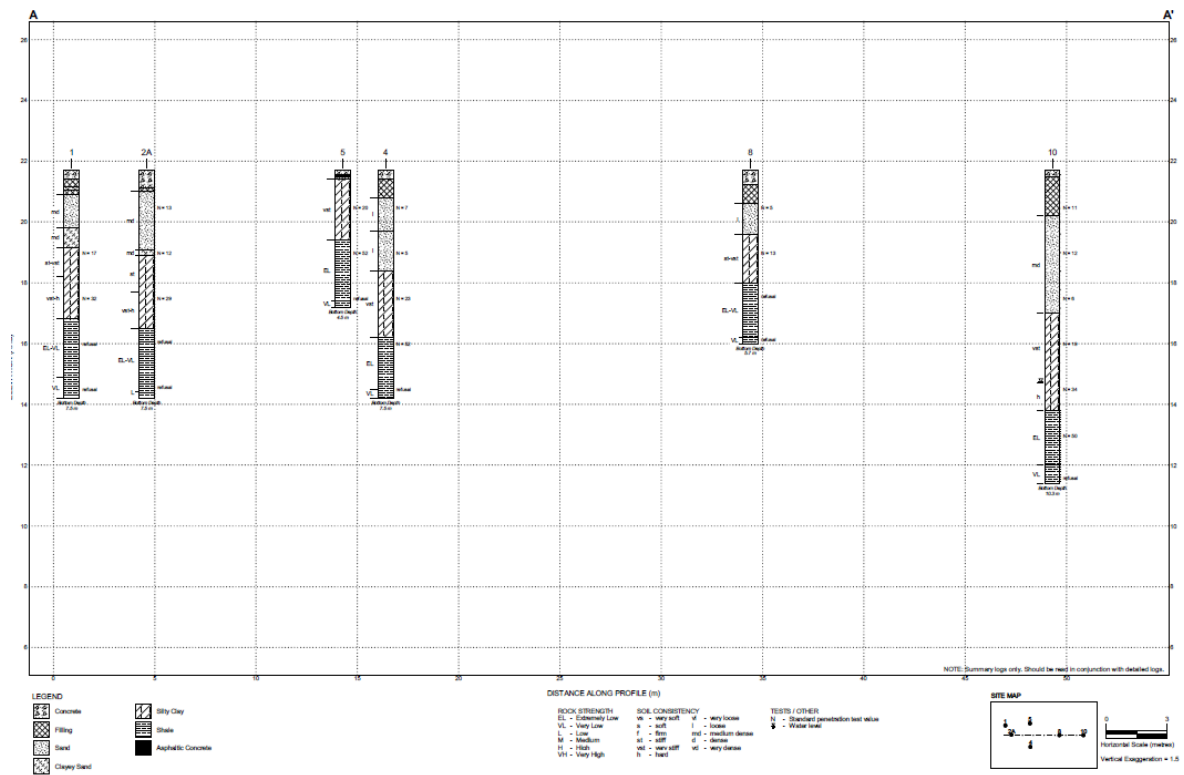


Figure 4.16: Geotechnical Cross Section A-A: ATP Locomotive Shop Upgrade, Locomotive Street, Eveleigh (Source: Douglas Partners 2017)

4.6.7. Summary of Physical Setting & Landscape Context

The study area is located on a relatively flat landform 3.5km southeast of the Sydney CBD and is located within the Wianamatta Group shales and Hawkesbury shales of the residual Blacktown Soil Landscape. While limited in the extent of the investigation, geotechnical boreholes undertaken to date only include the area directly east of the study area and suggest that the study area potential rests on the interface between the Tuggerah and Blacktown soil landscapes in a subsurface capacity. This soil profile unit has archaeological sensitivity for the potential for Aboriginal stone artefacts to be present, should Aboriginal people have undertaken activities in this area likely to leave tangible evidence (i.e., stone materials associated with occupation and stone knapping sites).

Although the study area has been completely cleared of native vegetation, it once would have offered a range of animal and plant resources utilised by local Aboriginal people. While the surrounding region has numerous swamps, lagoons, and creeks, none are located directly within, nor in particular proximity to the study area.

Historical ground disturbance within the study area has been relatively low, ranging from earlier land clearing (presumably low impact) in the early 1800s, through to construction of the LES in the late 19th century which has remained relatively untouched from later 20th and 21st century alterations and upgrades. It appears no bulk excavation has occurred on site besides the excavation for the building footings.

While the natural resources afforded by the study area would have been utilised by Aboriginal people, the environmental context and physical setting of the study area (i.e. located across a flat low slope associated with lower lying swamp and wetland areas) suggests that it is unlikely that the study area would have been a suitable or preferable landscape location for concentrated Aboriginal camp sites or occupation. The study area may have potential for isolated/low density artefact sites to be present, deposited as a result of ephemeral movement of Aboriginal people across the wider landscape. While this potential may have been impacted by historical disturbance and erosion, the lack of substantial historical excavation across the study area, and the depth of the top of natural sand and clayey sand profiles (0.2-2.6m depth) in close proximity to the east of the study area, indicates that potential Aboriginal archaeology may be preserved in intact natural soils.

5. Archaeological Context

5. Archaeological Context

5.1. Material Evidence of Aboriginal Land Use

The following section presents the results of a literature review of the NSW AHIMS library and other relevant reports for the Eveleigh region and surrounds. The nature, location, and extent of archaeological evidence of Aboriginal occupation as it presents in the region is further described in the following subsections.

5.2. Archaeological Evidence of Aboriginal Occupation

The diversity of the geology and landforms of the Sydney region landscape means there is a wide range of existing Aboriginal archaeological evidence and sites in existence across the region. The presence of Aboriginal archaeological sites in Sydney was first noted by the First Fleet officers upon their arrival in Sydney, where Governor Phillip commented on the rock engravings in the sandstone around Sydney Cove, Botany Bay and Broken Bay.⁴¹ Each geographical element of the Sydney landscape provides different conditions for the survival of physical reminders of the long term Aboriginal habitation and occupation of the Sydney region, including shell midden sites along the coast and sand dunes, rock engraving and art sites in sandstone shelters and surfaces, occupation sites in remnant soils containing Aboriginal stone tools, remains of hearth and cooking sites, remnant scarred and carved trees, and other archaeological evidence preserving the pre-1788 history of the Gadigal people.

Early researchers in Sydney's colonial history (late 19th Century) recorded and published a range of information regarding Aboriginal sites in the Sydney region, such as paleontologist and museum director Robert Etheridge Jr, who (along with Thomas Whitelegge) documented an early archaeological excavation of Aboriginal stone tool sites along the coast, including the first identification of an artefact type that has come to be known as a 'bondi point', a type of small pointed stone tool that is common to the Sydney region.⁴² Hundreds of Aboriginal archaeological sites have been excavated across Sydney, especially from the 1960s onwards.

The earliest accepted scientific date from archaeological sites in Sydney are, like those across the rest of Australia, unlikely to accurately reflect earliest occupation of Aboriginal people. This discrepancy between scientific dating and likely occupation relates largely to changes in sea levels, which impacted both occupation patterns of Aboriginal people between the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) and present, as well as inundating sites along the coasts and rivers, making them inaccessible to today's archaeological investigations.

The most recent period of maximum glaciation in Sydney was 15,000-18,000 before the present (BP), at which time sea levels would have been up to 140m below current, pushing the coastline further to the east. Around 10,000 years ago at the end of the Pleistocene epoch (LGM), the polar ice caps melted, and sea levels began to rise, which would have forced Aboriginal people to abandon coastal sites and moved inland, causing significant impact both to physical occupation patterns, as well as to economic and social habits. By around 6,000 years ago, rising sea levels had flooded what was once a coastal plain along Sydney's east coast, forming the landscape of Sydney Harbour and its river valleys that we recognise today. Therefore, the majority of archaeological sites in Sydney that have been scientifically dated, recovering dates of 5,000BP and later, after sea levels had stabilised. Few

⁴¹ Attenbrow, 2010

⁴² Ibid, p 6

archaeological sites in Sydney have been dated to before 10,000BP, with a few exceptions- summarised as followed.

The oldest widely accepted date for Aboriginal occupation in the Greater Sydney region is 25,000-30,000 years ago, recovered from the George & Charles St site in Parramatta⁴³, a basal date of 30,735±407BP, recovered from the Pleistocene geomorphological formation known as the Parramatta Sand Body (PSB). Aboriginal archaeological sites in closer proximity to Redfern that have been scientifically dated include Discovery Point in Tempe (a hearth dated to c.9376BP), the Prince of Wales Hospital site (a hearth dated to c.8400BP), and Captain Cooks Landing Site at Kurnell (dated to c.1330BP).⁴⁴

5.3. AHIMS Search

The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) is a database of records of Aboriginal Places and objects, referred to as Aboriginal sites in the state of NSW. The AHIMS database is a reflection of recorded archaeological work, the need for which has usually triggered by development, and therefore an AHIMS search alone is not a representation of the actual archaeological potential of the search area. AHIMS searches should be used as a starting point for further research a not as a definitive, final set of data.

AHIMS search results always require a certain amount of scrutiny in order to acknowledge and accommodate for inconsistencies in the coordinates (differing datums between years of recording), the existence of, and impact to, registered sites (impact to a registered site technically requires the submission of a Heritage Impact Recording form to be submitted to Heritage NSW, however these forms are not always submitted), and other database related difficulties.

As part of the background heritage analysis for the project, an extensive search of the AHIMS database was undertaken (06 May 2022- AHIMS SEARCH ID #680878). This centred on the study area but extended across the wider Inner West and City of Sydney region (approximately 5km radius of the study area).

Registered Aboriginal site types across the region include Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs), shell and artefact sites and artefact sites. Generally, the AHIMS patterning across the Inner West and City of Sydney LGAs shows that site locations are clustered around and in association with water courses.

No sites are currently registered on AHIMS directly within the study area (Figure 5.1). Summary descriptions of Aboriginal site features registered on AHIMS, as relevant to the study area, are presented in Table 1.1 **Error! Reference source not found..** The 101 registered sites from the AHIMS search included thirteen different site types, some located in combination with each other, as summarised in Table 5.2. The general distribution of each of these registered sites in relation to the study area is depicted in Figure 5.1.

A visual inspection of an Artefact and Shell site (AHIMS Site 47-6-2597), located 450m east of the study area, was undertaken in December 2020 with project RAPs for the Redfern Station Upgrade project, where it was concluded that no evidence remains of the exposed midden and that the archaeological significance of the site is no longer valid. It was highly stressed that this does not

⁴³ Jo McDonald CHM 2005, *Archaeological Salvage Excavation of Site CG1 (NPWS 45-5-2648) at the corner of Charles & George Streets, Parramatta*. Report prepared for Meriton Apartments.

⁴⁴ Attenbrow, 2010

discount the possibility of Aboriginal archaeological sites in the area and the RAPs on the project stated the high cultural significance of the area.⁴⁵

Table 1.1: Sites identified in the AHIMS search

Site Type	Number of Sites	Percentage of Sites (%)
Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming, Artefact and Shell	1	0.99%
Aboriginal Resource & Gathering	2	1.9%
Aboriginal Resource and Gathering, Non-Human Bone & Organic Material and Artefact	1	0.99%
Art	5	4.9%
Art and Artefact	1	0.99%
Artefact	16	15.8%
Artefact and PAD	3	2.9%
Burial, Aboriginal Ceremony & Dreaming and Artefact	1	0.99%
Grinding Groove	1	0.99%
Habitation Structure and PAD	1	0.99%
Hearth	1	0.99%
Modified Tree	1	0.99%
PAD	46	45.5%
PAD and Hearth	1	0.99%
Shell, Artefact and PAD	1	0.99%
Shell and Artefact	13	12.8%
Shell, Artefact and Art	2	1.9%
Shell and Burial	1	0.99%
Shell	1	0.99%
Total:	101	100

⁴⁵ AMAC 2020

Table 5.2: Aboriginal site features referred to in this report

Site Feature	Description
Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming	Previously referred to as mythological sites these are spiritual/story places where no physical evidence of previous use of the place may occur, e.g., natural unmodified landscape features, ceremonial or spiritual areas, men's/women's sites, dreaming (creation) tracks, marriage places etc.
Aboriginal Resource and Gathering	Related to everyday activities such as food gathering, hunting, or collection and manufacture of materials and goods for use or trade.
Art Site	Art is found in shelters, overhangs and across rock formations. Techniques include painting, drawing, scratching, carving, engraving, pitting, conjoining, abrading and the use of a range of binding agents and the use of natural pigments obtained from clays, charcoal, and plants.
Artefact Site (Open Camp Sites, Artefact Scatters, Isolated Finds)	Artefact sites consist of objects such as stone tools, and associated flaked material, spears, manuports, grindstones, discarded stone flakes, modified glass or shell demonstrating physical evidence of use of the area by Aboriginal people. Registered artefact sites can range from isolated finds to large extensive open camp sites and artefact scatters. Artefacts can be located either on the ground surface or in a subsurface archaeological context.
Grinding Groove	These are grooves resulting from the production or sharpening and maintenance of an edge ground tool. These sites are generally located near creeks or rock pools. There are a number of grinding grooves located throughout the general Sydney area.
Hearth	Accumulations of charcoal and/or shallow depressions filled with stones, used by Aboriginal people to retain heat, cook or process artefacts.
Scarred Tree	Scarred Trees have evidence of bark or heatwood material for production of coolamens, shields, shelters or canoes.
Potential Archaeological Deposits (PAD)	An area where Aboriginal cultural material such as stone artefacts, hearths, middens etc., may be present in a subsurface capacity.
Shell Midden	A shell midden site is an accumulation or deposit of shellfish resulting from Aboriginal gathering and consumption of shellfish from marine, estuarine, or freshwater environments. A shell midden site may be found in association with other objects like stone tools, faunal remains such as fish or mammal bones, charcoal, fireplaces/hearths, and occasionally burials.
Burials	A traditional or contemporary (post-contact) burial of an Aboriginal person, which may occur outside designated cemeteries and may not be marked, e.g., in caves, marked by stone cairns, in sand areas, along creek banks etc.

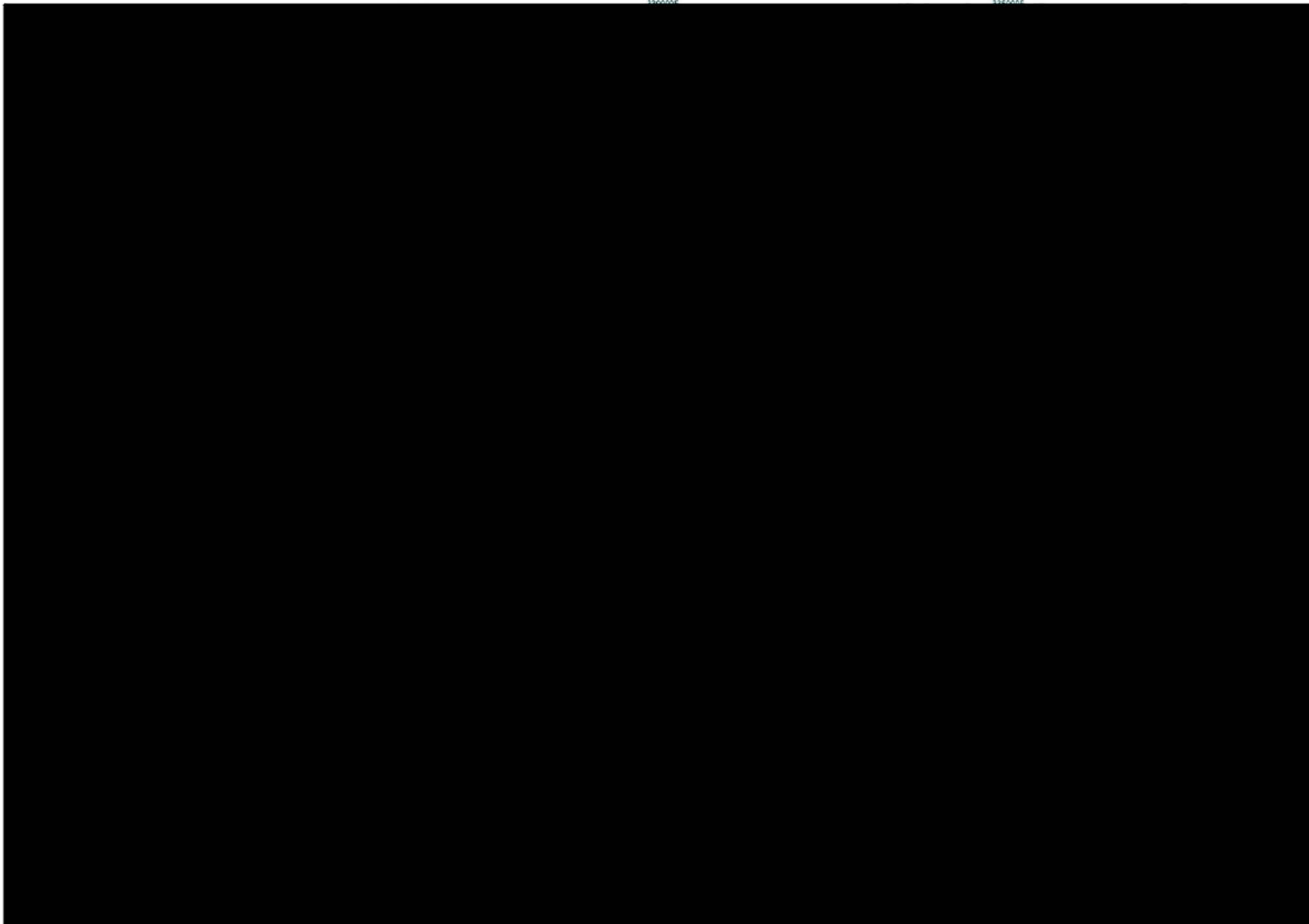


Figure 5.1: AHIMS Site (Source: Curio Projects) Image redacted as it contains sensitive information

5.4. Previous Archaeological Investigations & Assessment

Research into archaeological investigations undertaken in proximity to the current study area indicate the types of archaeology that may survive in the area, and the environment that has allowed it to survive. A brief review of several relevant key reports undertaken in proximity to the current study area has been presented below. The location of these studies with reference to the study area is presented in Figure 5.3.

5.4.1. KENS Site, Aboriginal Excavation – (Steele 2006)⁴⁶

Aboriginal archaeological assessment and excavation was undertaken by Dominic Steele in 2003, of a large Aboriginal campsite, at the site that has come to be known as the KENS site (named for the streets which form the general boundaries of this site: Kent, Erskine, Napoleon and Sussex Streets), near the eastern shoreline of Darling Harbour. This Aboriginal campsite was uncovered as a result of the demolition of the present building and associated historical archaeological excavation at the site. Excavation of this site recovered around 1000 Aboriginal stone artefacts within buried remnant soil profiles, including backed artefact tools, other retouched tools, cores and numerous waste flakes, which have been relatively dated to be occupied in the last 3000 years. In addition, two Aboriginal artefacts manufactured of glass were recovered from this site, demonstrating that the site was occupied by Aboriginal people of the area through to the post-contact period.

5.4.2. Redfern North Eveleigh, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study (Artefact 2022)⁴⁷

In 2022, an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study was undertaken for a State-led rezoning process at Redfern North Eveleigh, 150m north of the current study area, by Artefact Heritage for Transport for NSW. This study assessed the archaeological potential, significance assessment of potential Aboriginal sites, places, landscapes, and/or other values, Aboriginal heritage interpretation and mitigation on impacts through extensive Aboriginal community consultation.

The study assessed there to be nil to low Aboriginal archaeological potential across much of the site due to site gradings for the current railway level in the 19th century. Artefact identified a PAD site (RNE-PAD001) located in the northeastern corner of the study area along Wilson Street and directly east of the Chief Mechanical Engineers Building (CME Building). The location of the RNE-PAD001 site is also known as the CME Building gardens. Artefact identified the PAD site as having low to moderate Aboriginal archaeological potential as the area does not appear to have been subject to impacts other than potential landscaping impacts.

Artefact recommended test excavation would be required prior to subsurface impacts to RNE-PAD001 under the Code of Practice to assess the nature and significance of the PAD. It was also recommended that development outside of the RNE-PAD001 would not need additional Aboriginal archaeological assessment but instead an Unexpected Finds Procedure would be prepared and enforced for future development if Aboriginal objects are located.

⁴⁶ Steele, D. 2006, *Final Aboriginal Archaeological Excavation Report. The KENS Site (Kent, Erskine, Napoleon and Sussex Street)*, Sydney, NSW. Report to Leighton Contractors Pty Ltd.

⁴⁷ Artefact Heritage Services, 2022. *Redfern North Eveleigh Precinct Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study*. Prepared for Transport for NSW.

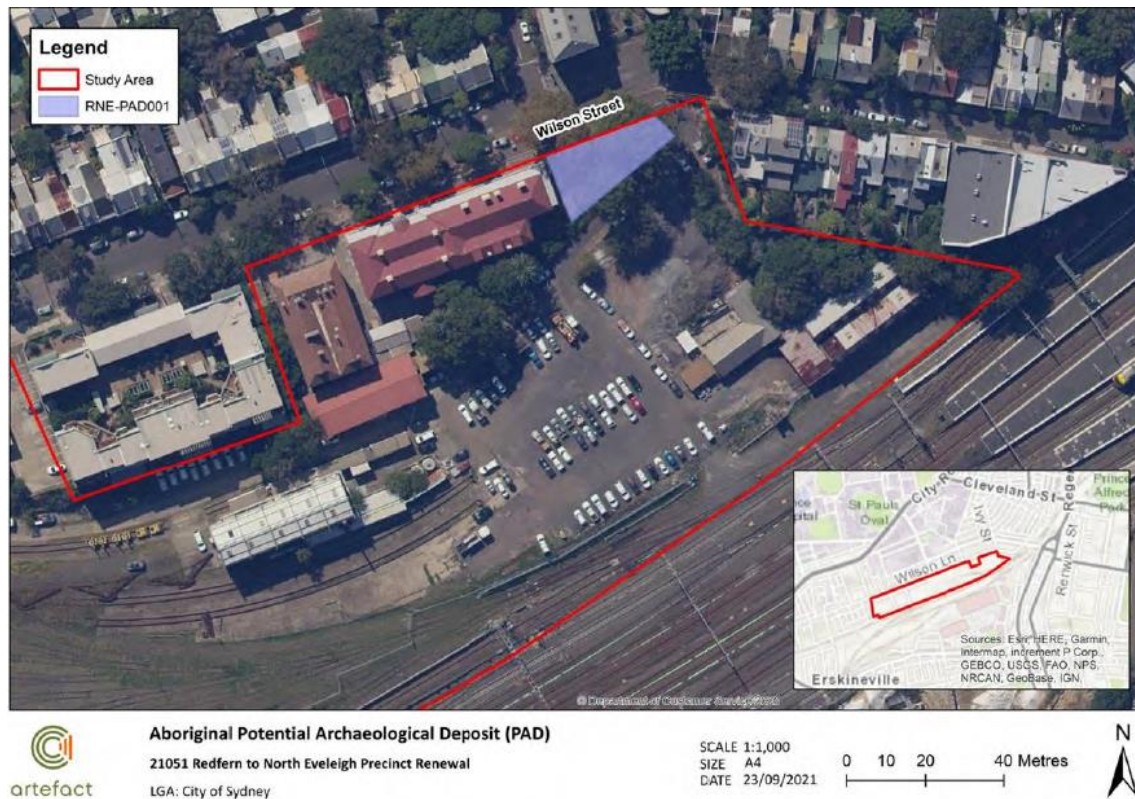


Figure 5.2: Redfern North Eveleigh study area with RNE-PAD001 outlined in purple (Source: Artefact 2022)

5.4.3. Wynyard Walk (GML 2015)⁴⁸

GML Heritage undertook Aboriginal archaeological excavation of the Wynyard Walk, West Portal site in 2015. The potential Aboriginal archaeological deposit located at Wynyard Walk was assessed to be of moderate to high scientific significance primarily for its educative and research potential values. While disturbance at the site was considered likely, previous excavations in close proximity to the site such as the neighbouring KENS site, had illustrated that soil profiles capable of bearing archaeological deposits could be preserved in the area. Aboriginal archaeological excavation of this site required a two-staged approach due to the nature of the site below previous development and in association with the historical archaeology at the site.

Archaeological excavation at Wynyard Walk recovered Aboriginal stone artefacts in association with the historical archaeology present at the site, as well as within surviving natural soil profiles.

5.4.4. Darling Quarter (Comber Consultants 2012)⁴⁹

Comber Consultants undertook a series of Aboriginal archaeological excavations in 2008 and 2009 for the redevelopment of Darling Quarter (formerly Darling Walk), Darling Harbour (in collaboration with Casey & Lowe who undertook the historical archaeological work for the project).

The site was located along the original foreshore of Cockle Bay (Darling Harbour). Aboriginal test excavation identified the remains of a shell midden, including Aboriginal stone artefacts on an exposed area of bedrock (Area 5 of the excavation) in close proximity to the original shoreline. This

⁴⁸ GML Heritage 2013, *Wynyard Walk Western Portal—Aboriginal Archaeological Technical Report*. Prepared for Thiess.

⁴⁹ Comber Consultants 2012, *Darling Quarter (formerly Darling Walk), Darling Harbour. Aboriginal Archaeological Excavation Report*. Prepared for Casey + Lowe on behalf of Lend Lease.

area was expanded into an open area salvage excavation across the remainder of the sandstone outcrop in the south-east of the excavation area and recovered ten Aboriginal stone artefacts in association with the midden. It was determined that Aboriginal people would have used this location on the sandstone outcrop to cook and eat the shellfish that had been gathered from the surrounding environment. In addition, soil analyses undertaken as part of the project presented evidence of cooking fires in this location.

Of the ten stone artefacts recovered, all but two of them were manufactured of chert. There is no known local source of this rock type, and therefore the report suggests that the presence of this raw material type may have been the result of trading between the local Aboriginal people of the Cockle Bay area, and Aboriginal people that lived in the west, near Plumpton Ridge, a known source of chert for Western Sydney. It is also possible that other more local sources of chert were present around the Sydney CBD area prior to 1788 that remain unknown to archaeologists.

5.4.5. Sydney International Convention, Exhibition and Entertainment Precinct (SICEEP), Aboriginal Archaeological Excavation (Comber Consultants, 2015)⁵⁰

Comber Consultants undertook Aboriginal archaeological excavation within the Bayside/Darling Central Complex (i.e. the International Convention Centre (ICC) and entertainment precinct) of the SICEEP in Darling Harbour, in late 2013 and early 2014, in collaboration with Casey & Lowe, who undertook the Historical Archaeological Excavation.

Aboriginal excavation within this precinct included investigation within eleven separate open areas, identifying:

- A sequence of middens along the rocky original Darling Harbour foreshore (which could potentially be represent one continuous midden distributed along the foreshore), including 63 Aboriginal artefacts;
- Excavation of a discrete knapping floor on the edge of a midden from Open Area 2;
- Excavation of one in situ midden, dated to c300BP, between 1691 and c.1820;
- Evidence that Aboriginal people were still occupying and using this midden or sequence of middens during the early years of European occupation' and
- Predominantly silcrete artefacts, drawing the conclusion that it was likely that this material was traded with people from west of the Harbour on the Cumberland Plain.

As a large proportion of this excavation took place underneath the (then existing) buildings of the former Sydney Entertainment and Exhibition Centres, this excavation successfully demonstrated the potential for intact Aboriginal archaeological deposits to be present beneath modern buildings and development, regardless of assumed impact.

⁵⁰ Comber Consultants 2015, *Darling Harbour Live, Darling Harbour, Aboriginal Archaeological Excavation Report, PPP Development, International Convention Centre, Exhibition Centre & Theatre*, Report to Casey & Lowe on behalf of Darling Harbour Live.

5.4.6. SICEEP “Haymarket” Aboriginal Excavations (Comber Consultants, 2014)⁵¹⁵²

Two Aboriginal archaeological test excavations were undertaken by Comber Consultants within the ‘Haymarket’ area of the SICEEP: within the ‘South West Plot’ (four trenches along the original shoreline, in the southwest corner of the lot bounded by Darling Drive in the west and Quay Street in the south), and ‘Student Housing’ (a 50m x 6m area between Darling Drive and the light rail). Both these sites were selected for subsurface archaeological excavation due to their location within an area that formerly would have contained part of the original foreshore of Darling Harbour. However, following test excavation, neither site demonstrated any evidence of Aboriginal archaeology or occupation. The ‘South West Plot’ was assessed to have been previously disturbed by the installation of underground services, while the ‘Student Housing’ site simply revealing no remnant evidence of the original shoreline.

5.4.7. Redfern Courthouse and Police Station, 103-105 Redfern Street (Austral 2007)⁵³

Located 700m northeast from the current study area, a preliminary desktop assessment for redevelopment was undertaken. The site was located on a former sand dune where numerous resources were accessible within the region. Geotechnical results found natural deposits were considerably disturbed. Land use history of the site indicated land clearance and construction of the current building was undertaken including modifications and extensions. The site was marked as having low potential for subsurface material and that any potential Aboriginal sites or objects within subsurface contexts would have likely been removed or destroyed since European use of the land.

5.4.8. National Centre of Indigenous Excellence, 108 George Street, Redfern (AHMS 2007a)⁵⁴

Aboriginal archaeological test excavation was undertaken at 108 George Street, Redfern (c750m northeast of the current study area) at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence (NCIE) in 2007. The Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment prepared for the site noted the soil profile of the area included fill deposits across the site up to 0.2-3m in depth, while natural grey Aeolian sand was encountered during geotechnical investigations considered to potentially represent the presence of humic content from previous vegetation located on this soil profile. Test excavation at the NCIE consisted of four 1x1m test pits to c900mm in depth. No Aboriginal objects were found as a result of these text excavations; however, the area was concluded to retain potential for subsurface Aboriginal archaeological material to be present.

5.4.9. Central Site, Darlington Campus, University of Sydney (JMD CHM 2006)

Located just over 850m north of the current study area, test excavation was undertaken and identified that although A horizon soils were present up to 0.5m in depth, they were found to be heavily disturbed. A previous survey had marked this area as low to moderate Aboriginal archaeological potential. In one of the nine 1mx1m test pits, a single flaked silicified tuff artefact was discovered.

⁵¹ Comber Consultants 2014a, *South West Plot, Darling Harbour Live Darling Harbour SSD 6011, Aboriginal Archaeological Excavation Report*, Report to Casey & Lowe on Behalf of Darling Harbour Live.

⁵² Comber Consultants 2014b, *Student Housing, Darling Harbour Live, Darling Harbour: SSD 6010, Aboriginal Archaeological Excavation Report*, Report to Casey & Lowe on Behalf of Lend Lease

⁵³ Austral Archaeology 2007. Redfern Courthouse and Police Station, Redfern, NSW: Preliminary Aboriginal Desktop Assessment, for Atkinson Capital Insight.

⁵⁴ AHMS 2007a. National Indigenous Development Centre, Redfern, NSW: Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment, report to the Indigenous Land Corporation.

5.4.10. 455-473 Wattle Street, Ultimo (Biosis 2012a)⁵⁵

A site located 1.5km north of the current study area had significant disturbance to its immediate surrounds since European invasion. An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report stated the potential for intact natural subsurface profiles below the disturbed layers. A PAD site was registered on AHIMS (ID #45-6-3064) which was located below fill deposits at 2.5m depth and alluvial soils thought to be present up to 7m in depth. Test excavation for Aboriginal cultural heritage was recommended to be organised before any development on site and that the alluvial soils to be avoided during construction works.

⁵⁵ Biosis Research 2012a. 455-473 Wattle Street Ultimo, Proposed Student Accommodation Development: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report, report to Cultural Resources Management.

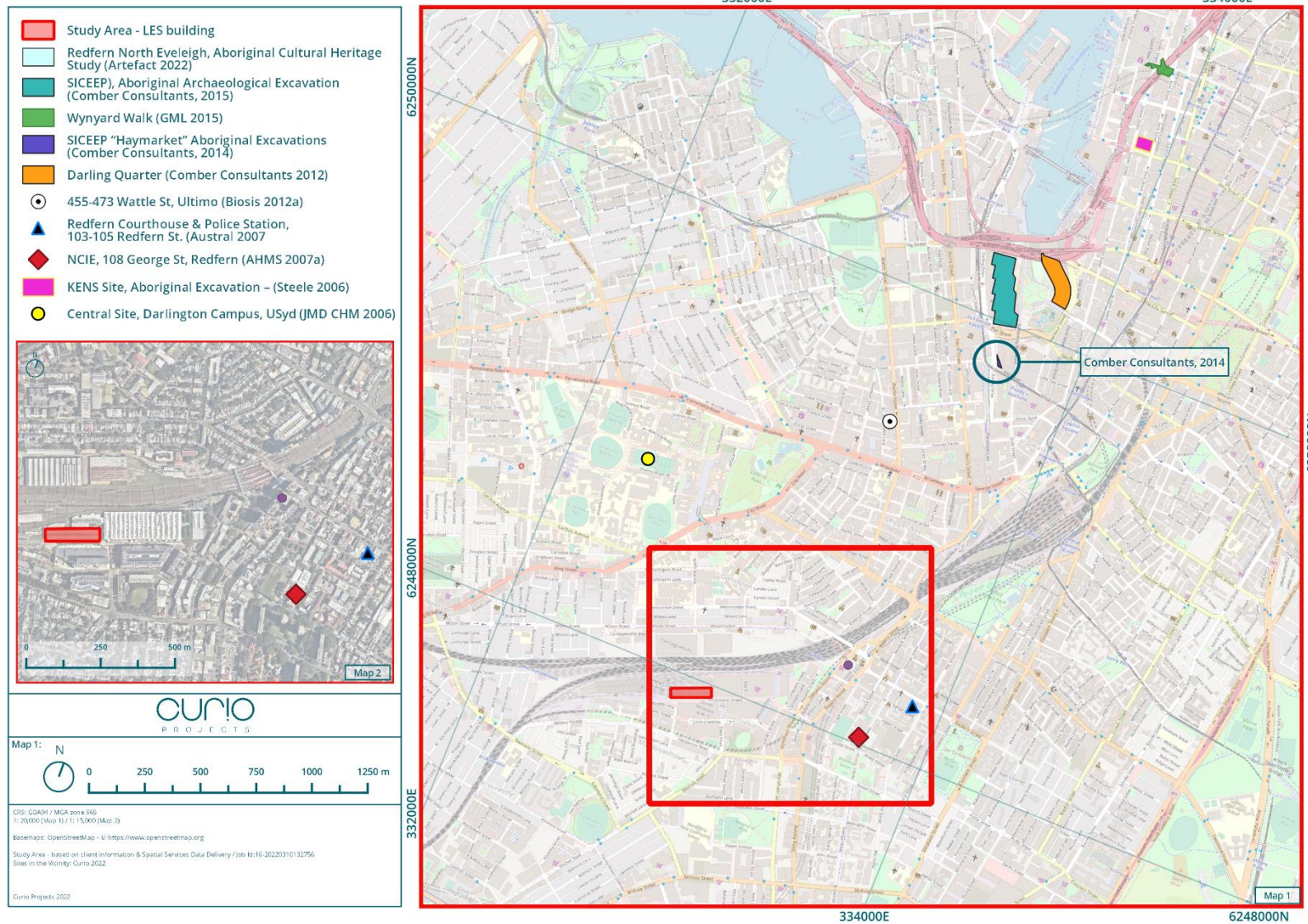


Figure 5.3: Sites in the Vicinity (Source: Curio Projects 2020)

5.4.11. Summary of Previous Archaeological Investigations

Numerous archaeological assessments and Aboriginal archaeological excavations in Sydney CBD and Redfern have demonstrated the potential for Aboriginal archaeological deposits to remain in situ, within the natural landscape and disturbed or developed areas, dependent of the level of historical disturbance that the area has been subject to. As shown by previous archaeological investigations, the most likely Aboriginal archaeological sites within the area are PADs and subsurface artefact assemblages.

5.5. Regional Character & Archaeological Predictive Model

Archaeological predictive modelling integrates information about environmental context, previous historical activities and ground disturbance, and known location surrounding sites (excavations and registered AHIMS sites), to access and predict the nature of archaeology that may be present within the study area.

This desktop study is limited in its ability to definitively confirm whether there has been a total subsurface disturbance and/or removal of Aboriginal archaeological deposits, or complete disturbance or full removal of natural soil profiles (those that would contain Aboriginal archaeological deposits, if present). Rather, the potential has been based on predictive modelling specific to the site, and its environmental surrounds.

The following predictions are made with regards to Aboriginal archaeological potential within the study area:

- The surrounding region includes a number of swamps, lagoons and creeks, with some likely to have been situated within, or in close proximity to the study area.
- No registered sites are located in or in close proximity to the study area.
- The study area has no potential for site types such as scarred trees, rock shelters and grinding grooves, as the natural features required for these types of sites are not present.
- PAD sites are the most common site type in the region, and are therefore the most likely site type to be present within the study area, should the site conditions allow the preservation of such a site (i.e. where historical land disturbance activities have not already removed all natural soil profiles).
- Few Aboriginal archaeological excavations and investigations have been undertaken across the Eveleigh area to date, resulting in limited archaeological data and context available for comparison.
- Historical development within the study area has resulted in moderate disturbance and impact to upper natural soil profiles however the study area has not previously been subject to extensive bulk excavation.
- Geotechnical testing adjacent to the study area suggests natural Blacktown/Tuggerah soils may be located beneath historical fill.
- While natural soils profiles may be located within the study area, the area itself was unlikely to be a preferable or suitable location for activities likely to leave a remnant archaeological signature (i.e. deposited stone tools etc resulting from intensive Aboriginal occupation and camping).

- However, the study area retains potential for isolated/low density artefact sites to be present, deposited as a result of resource exploitation and ephemeral movement of Aboriginal people across the wider landscape.
- While the potential may have been impacted by historical disturbance and erosion, geotechnical investigations undertaken in close proximity to the study area indicates there to be potential for natural soil deposits to be present within the study area. Although this cannot be confirmed until geotechnical investigations are completed within the LES study area.
- There may also be potential for isolated Aboriginal artefacts (stone artefacts and shells) to be present in a disturbed context within historical archaeological resources (if present within the study area).

5.6. Summary of Predictive Model

This study has found that the most likely Aboriginal archaeological resources within the study area are:

- Stone artefacts
- PADs

An assessment of the regional character, site use and disturbance history and environmental context of the study area has identified that:

- Blacktown and/or Tuggerah soils are likely to be present within the study area and subject to disturbance due to the construction of the LES.
- Intact natural soils present within the study area have the potential to include low density artefact deposits.

Overall, the study area is considered to have a **low to moderate potential** for intact Aboriginal archaeological deposits to be present within upper disturbed soil profiles and potential residual landforms. Any Aboriginal sites within the study area would likely be representative of use of the natural resource zone and ephemeral movement across the landscape.

6. Physical Analysis

6. Physical Analysis

6.1. Description of Study Area

The LES building is located at the north-west portion of the South Eveleigh Precinct and has a total area of approximately 8300m² with a perimeter of roughly 474m. The building is bounded by Locomotive Street and the Channel 7 Global Television and Pacific Magazines Building to the south; the Eveleigh Maintenance Centre including the Administration Office and an active rail corridor to the north; the Oscar Maintenance Centre (OMC) and the Intercity Maintenance Centre (IMC) / RailConnect NSW building to the west; and the Locomotive Workshop building immediately to the east.

The LES is located on the southwestern side of the former ERW, adjacent to the South Eveleigh Precinct. The LES building is separated from Bay 15, the western extremity of the Locomotive Workshop, by an open carriageway providing access to the current EMC yard. This area was formerly occupied by a traverser used for transporting locomotives between the Locomotive Workshop and the LES⁵⁶. The building was designed to accommodate the fabrication, repair, and maintenance of the steam engines of the period in which it was built. The LES remains a prominent single purpose structure surviving on the ERW site. It is the most intact in terms of original fabric and functional layout, despite detracting extensions and redundant services attached to the building⁵⁷.

The LES building is a large single storey structure with a steel trussed roof including metal roof sheeting, six roads orientated east-west, separated down the centre of the six by a single row of cast iron columns. The overall form of the building is largely intact and unaltered since its use and still retains the majority of its original fabric (e.g., original brickwork etc.). The LES comprises internally of concrete flooring, six east-west orientated roads divided in the centre by hollow cast iron columns which are connected in an east-west direction by a system of cast iron riveted web trusses and support seven travelling overhead cranes.

The LES is divided into two parallel galleries orientated east to west. The outer two lines in each gallery (i.e., on roads 1, 3, 4 and 6) have concrete access stairs leading to undercarriage inspection pits between the rails to facilitate repair work beneath trains on the respective tracks. The full-length pits to the four pit roads and short pits to the clear centre road at the western end remain as originally constructed beside the replacement of original timber slab floors with concrete paving.

The surrounding context of the study area is characterised by a mix of residential, commercial, educational, and retail uses, located within the suburbs of Alexandria to the south and southeast, Erskineville to the west and Redfern to the northeast.

The former Eveleigh Carriage Workshops (now North Eveleigh) is located across the main rail line to the north, the Channel 7 News building is located directly south of the LES across Locomotive Street and one of the Commonwealth office buildings 70m southeast.

For a more detailed description of the physical analysis of the LES study area, please refer to Curios 2022 *Non-Aboriginal Heritage Study* report.

⁵⁶ SDA 2003 CMP p. 30

⁵⁷ Ibid p. 35



Figure 6.1: View of the western façade of the LES building
(Source: Curio 2022)



Figure 6.2: View of the Elephant House to the west of the
LES Building (Source: Curio 2022)



Figure 6.3: Residential buildings located south west of the
study area (Source: Curio 2022)



Figure 6.4: Western view down the southern façade of the
study area (Source: Curio 2022)



Figure 6.5: Security gate outside the LES southern façade
(Source: Curio 2022)



Figure 6.6: South eastern corner of the study area outside
southern edge of the LES building and southern boundary
of the study area (Source: Curio 2022)



Figure 6.7: Western view down Locomotive Street between the LES building and Channel Seven Building (Source: Curio 2022)



Figure 6.8: View towards Commonwealth building from south eastern corner of the LES building (Source: Curio 2022)



Figure 6.9: Northern view of western façade of the Locomotive Workshop from eastern façade of the LES building (Source: Curio 2022)



Figure 6.10: North eastern awning along northern façade of the LES building (Source: Curio 2022)



Figure 6.11: Western view of modern workshops and store buildings along the northern wall of the LES building (Source: Curio 2022)



Figure 6.12: Internal view of the LES highlighting the pits located across the building's footprint (Source: Curio 2022)

7. Cultural Heritage Values and Significance Assessment

7. Cultural Heritage Values and Significance Assessment

The determination of the significance of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, places and objects is a key factor in preparing an impact assessment for a proposed activity, as the significance will inform the proposed mitigation, management or conservation.

The Code of Practice states that significance of a site, place or object is to be assessed using the criteria outlined in The Burra Charter Australia (Australia ICOMOS 2013) and as defined by:

...aesthetic, historic, scientific, social, or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places, and related objects. Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups. (Australia ICOMOS 2013: 2).

7.1. Criteria of Cultural Value

The five types of cultural heritage value, as presented in The Burra Charter (2013) form the basis of assessing the Aboriginal heritage values and significance of a site or area. Each of these cultural heritage values, as specifically relevant to Aboriginal cultural heritage, are summarised as follows (after OEH 2011a).

Social (Cultural) and Spiritual Value—spiritual, traditional, historical, or contemporary associations and attachments the place or area has for Aboriginal people. Social or cultural value is how people express their connection with a place and the meaning that place has for them.

Historic Value—associations of a place with a historically important person, event, phase, or activity in an Aboriginal community. Historic places do not always have physical evidence of their historical importance (such as structures, planted vegetation or landscape modifications). They may have ‘shared’ historic values with other (non-Aboriginal) communities.

Scientific Value—the importance of a landscape, area, place or object because of its rarity, representativeness, and the extent to which it may contribute to further understanding and information.

The scientific (archaeological) value lies with the potential of a site to contribute to research questions. Heritage NSW states the scientific (archaeological) value of an Aboriginal sites or place to:

Refer to the importance of a landscape, area, place or object because of its rarity, representativeness, and the extent to which it may contribute to further understanding and information. (OEH 2011: 9)

An assessment of Scientific Value also includes the consideration of:

- **Research Potential:** This criterion relates to how much potential a site has to contribute to a further scientific or archaeological understanding of a site/area/region or past human behaviours and site use. This will consider the stratigraphic integrity or preservation of a site and the connectivity to other sites in the regional context.

- **Rarity:** This criterion defines the uniqueness or distinctiveness of a site in consideration of the frequency of similar site types in a local or regional area/landscape. As with Representativeness, this criterion is best assessed through an understanding of what is common and what is unusual in the archaeological record. This criterion can be assessed at a local, state, national or global level.
- **Representativeness:** As with rarity, this criterion reflects an understanding of the archaeological context within an area or region and the existing conservation of archaeological resources in the regional context. An assessment of representativeness questions if particular sites should be conserved to preserve a representative sample of the site type within the archaeological record.
- **Education Potential:** This criterion reflects the ability of a site to contribute to the public record and provide teaching resources in order to further understanding of Aboriginal cultural heritage and archaeology. An assessment of education potential incorporates key points of intactness, relevance, accessibility and interpretive potential.

Aesthetic Value—sensory, scenic, architectural, and creative aspects of the place. It is often closely linked with the social values. It may consider form, scale, colour, texture and material of the fabric or landscape, and the smell and sounds associated with the place and its use. The physical setting of a site contributes to its aesthetic value and in the sensory response people may have to it. Archaeological site types that may hold high aesthetic significance include rock art sites, cultural landscapes and scarred trees.

7.2. Assessment of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Values

Assessment of each of the above criteria has been undertaken in consideration of the landscape and environmental context of the study area, Aboriginal history, previous archaeological work, and the field survey. The assessment of each criterion has then been graded (as per OEH 2011)) in terms of high, medium, and low, in order to allow significance to be described and compared. The application of the cultural values criteria to the Aboriginal cultural heritage of the study area has also included consideration of research potential, representativeness, rarity, and education potential for each criterion (as relevant).

7.2.1. Social (Cultural) and Spiritual Value

Aboriginal community consultation for the LES, Eveleigh project is ongoing at the time of writing, and Project RAPs are likely to provide ongoing comment on any social or spiritual values associated with the study area. In particular, the CwC framework and consultation (currently in production by FCAD) will greatly inform an assessment of cultural value for the study area. The CwC will facilitate a process of ongoing consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders and knowledge holders for the Project, which will provide an understanding of the intangible values of the study area and beyond. As such, any future assessments of Aboriginal cultural value for the Project will be informed this ongoing consultation, with the statement of significance to be updated accordingly.

Cultural Landscape

Previous archaeological and cultural assessments undertaken across Sydney have consistently demonstrated that Gadigal people consider all their sites to be connected as part of a wider cultural landscape. Viewed as a whole, sites across this area form a complex that embodies all aspects of traditional history and life. While the study area and surrounds are the traditional lands of the

Gadigal, the Redfern area is significant for the wider Aboriginal community, with a long history of connection with many other Aboriginal groups. The Redfern area has been occupied and valued by Aboriginal people for tens of thousands of years and into current day. The study area forms part of a complex cultural landscape in a region that was rich with resources and highly valued by the traditional custodians of the area. The Everleigh area in particular maintains direct linkages from Aboriginal workers employed by the workshops as well as the use of rail for travel by Aboriginal communities (see Section 4.3.2). Redfern is also considered at the heart of Aboriginal activism and maintains great cultural significance for the Aboriginal community.

Kadibulla Khan from KYWG noted in her response to the Project methodology that:

As Aboriginal people we have a strong connection to mother earth, sky, water, and fire, we are spiritual beings who believe in a higher power of biamie. It is the ancient stories of how the earth and life was created long ago, the dreaming and how we continue to dream like our ancestors. This brings me to the importance of the intangible and the astatic aspects of country. Aboriginal people were good at giving back to mother earth, hence why not much is left behind. But the spiritual energy that country holds deep onto stains the land and can never be lost. This feeling we get when stepping foot on an Aboriginal site is aweing of emotions and energy this is intangible to us.

The area is known to for the abundance resources allowing room for sites to be located possibly with in the area. Aboriginal people utilised natural resources to create tools, craft, wood works, stone tool manufacturing and weaving. Aboriginal people utilised canoes to cross the water and to fish. Before colonisation there would have been fresh water sources available to Aboriginal people, along with wells that were dug and claypans could have been utilised for fresh water.

The study area is highly significant to our people as for many years Redfern has been the heart for Sydney Indigenous peoples we have utilised the area as a safe haven. A place where we have fought for our rights as the owners of this land.⁵⁸

Regional Cultural Values Identified in Previous Assessments

Previous community engagement and consultation undertaken in the surrounding regional area of the LES have identified key cultural values relevant to the study area. Table 7.1 outlines two relevant studies and the key values and themes identified.

Table 7.1: Previous Assessments including cultural values in the regional area to the LES

Study	Identified Cultural Values	Key Elements/ Themes
Cox Inall Ridgeway, 2021. <i>Botany Road Corridor Strategic Review Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community engagement and cultural heritage research.</i> Prepared for City of Sydney.	Important places of memory and connection which are connected through. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family • Working life (working together through factories/ railways) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledging Traditional Owners • Reviving Country • Self-determination history • Recent and future achievements • Recognition of people, place and organisations • Truth in history

⁵⁸ KYWG, 14 June 2022, *Response to Project Methodology*- Refer Consultation Log for details

Study	Identified Cultural Values	Key Elements/ Themes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Life (sports, pubs and cafes) • Political campaigns and organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People in place and benefit sharing • Murals, statues and public artworks • Heritage protection
Artefact Heritage, 2021. <i>Redfern North Eveleigh-Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study</i> . Prepared for TfNSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political significance • Connected to the railway • Travelling from rail to country • Employment at ERW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep time • Landscape and waterscape • Trackways • Places of gathering • Gadigal food bowl • Aboriginal astronomy • A complex heritage • Labour

Summary of Cultural and Social Value

In consideration of the known Aboriginal histories of the study area, cultural values identified during Project RAPs as part of the LES Aboriginal community consultation process, previous cultural values assessments and key themes identified through previous CwC engagement, the study area and beyond is assessed to be of high cultural value.

The key themes relating to cultural value include ongoing connection to Country, landscape and resource abundance, safe haven, political activism, family and connection through rail.

This assessment of cultural value is considered to be a preliminary assessment that will be supplemented and built-upon during future consultation and the development of the CwC framework and identification of knowledge holders.

7.2.2. Historical Values

The study area has no specific historical links to the Aboriginal community, however historical and oral information shows that Aboriginal workers were employed in the Everleigh Workshops and that the railway has value through its use connecting the Aboriginal community for travel. The Redfern area also has historical value as a centre of political and social activism and as a safe haven for the Aboriginal community, as noted by Kadibulla Kahn of KYWG.⁵⁹

As such, the study area is assessed to be of low-moderate historical value.

7.2.3. Scientific (Archaeological) Values

High scientific significance is usually attributed to sites which are so rare or unique that the loss of the site (particularly without investigation or appropriate mitigation) would be likely to affect the ability to understand an aspect of past Aboriginal life/occupation of an area.

At present, no archaeological investigation of the study area has been undertaken, and Aboriginal archaeological potential is assessed to be low to moderate, with a recommendation for localised

⁵⁹ KYWG, 14 June 2022, *Response to Project Methodology*- Refer Consultation Log for details

archaeological test excavation during subsequent project stages. Should archaeological deposits be present within the study area, they have the potential to hold social, historical and scientific values and as such would be reassessed against the relevant criteria during future works.

7.2.4. Aesthetic Value

The study area is situated within a highly urban context with no environmentally intact landscape. Accordingly, the study area retains little of its natural aesthetic value and is assessed to be of low aesthetic value.

7.3. Statement of Significance

No Aboriginal objects, sites or places were identified during this assessment and accordingly, the study area has been found to have low value as assessed against the criteria for scientific and aesthetic significance, and of low-moderate value against the criteria for historic significance.

The study area has been assessed to have the potential to contain subsurface archaeological deposits, with a recommendation for sub surface investigations during the SSDA stage of the Project. Should subsequent stages of works identify archaeological deposits be present within the study area, they have the potential to hold social, historical and scientific values and as such would be reassessed against the relevant criteria.

In consideration of the known Aboriginal histories of the study area, cultural values identified during Project RAPs as part of the LES Aboriginal community consultation process, previous cultural values assessments and key themes identified through previous CwC engagement, the study area and the greater Everleigh and Redfern area is assessed to be of high cultural and social value and as a significant Aboriginal cultural landscape. The key themes relating to cultural value include ongoing connection to Country, landscape and resource abundance, safe haven, political activism, family and connection through rail.

This assessment of cultural value is considered to be a preliminary assessment that will be supplemented and built-upon during future consultation and the development of the CwC framework and identification of knowledge holders.

8. Impact Assessment

8. Impact Assessment

It is important that an impact assessment directly addresses the potential harm that an activity may pose, specific to an Aboriginal place, objects, site, or archaeological deposit.⁶⁰

8.1. Proposed Works

The proposed activity is related to a submission of the state-led rezoning of the study area to enable the adaptive reuse of the LES building for commercial and retail purposes. No physical impacts are proposed at this stage of works.

As the proposed works are rezoning, future works under a secondary SSDA assessment will be required to reassess the physical impacts to the LES study area.

8.1.1. Future SSDA proposed works

The proposed new planning controls following the proposed rezoning to be submitted under the secondary SSDA are intended to facilitate the following:

- Alterations within the existing LES to convert the ground level into commercial office and retail premises;
- Creation of two new 'internal' storeys within the existing LES building envelope for use as commercial office premises;
- External upgrade and conservation work to the existing LES building to ensure it is fit for purpose and environmentally sustainable;
- Heritage Interpretation and conservation work generally throughout the LES site;
- Services augmentation;
- Lift pits;
- Publicly associable space upgrades.

Error! Reference source not found. to Figure 8.4 presents the proposed concept plans for the concept design, to be assessed under a secondary ACHAR as part of the future SSDA process.

⁶⁰ OEH 2011 p.12).

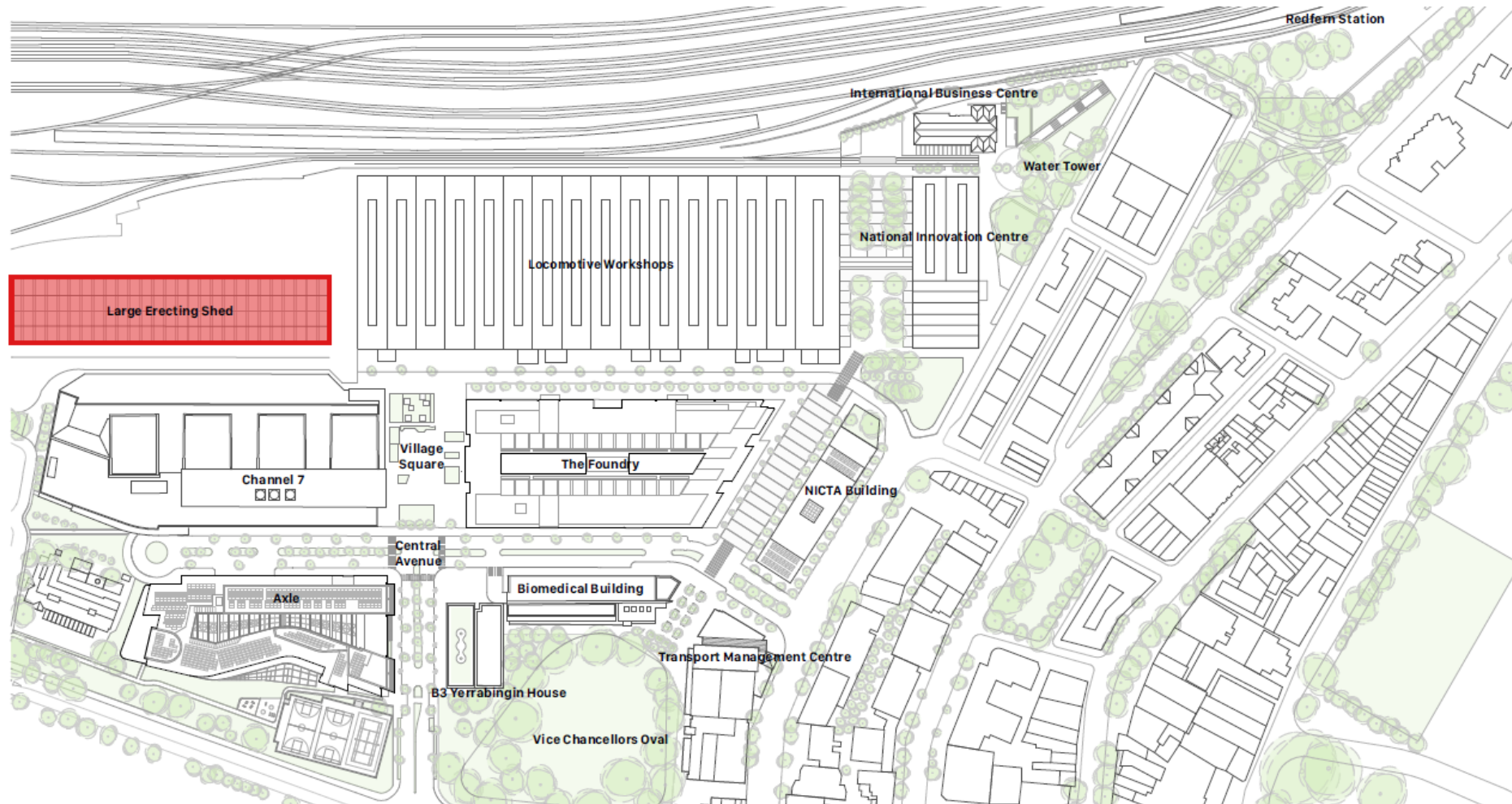


Figure 8.1: LES within surrounding precinct context. Reference scheme only for the Re-zoning Application. Design is subject to detailed design, SSDA and planning approvals (Source: Fjmt Studio 2022)

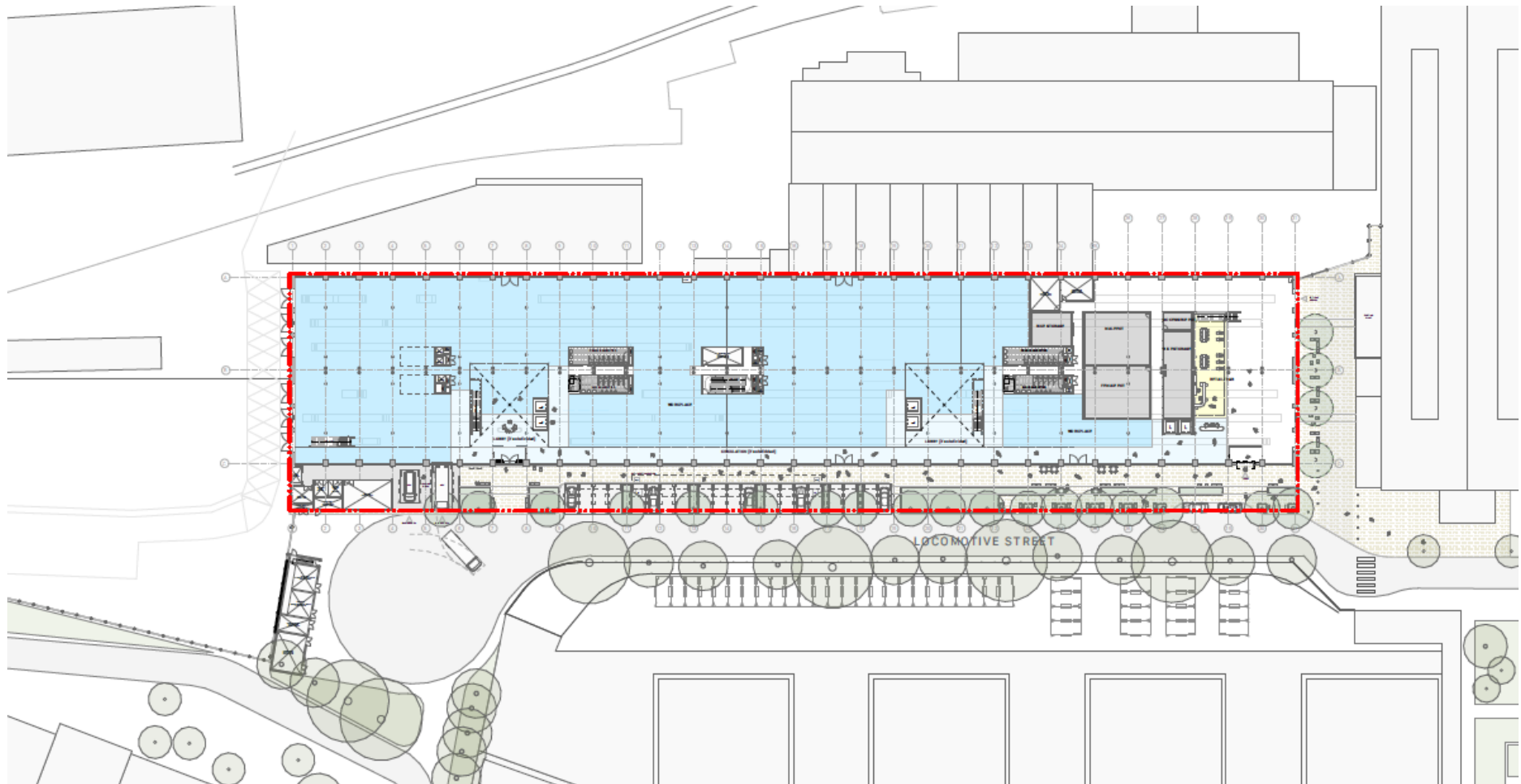


Figure 8.2: Ground Floor Plan- LES. Reference scheme only for the Re-zoning Application. Design is subject to detailed design, SSDA and planning approvals (Source: Fjmt Studio 2022)

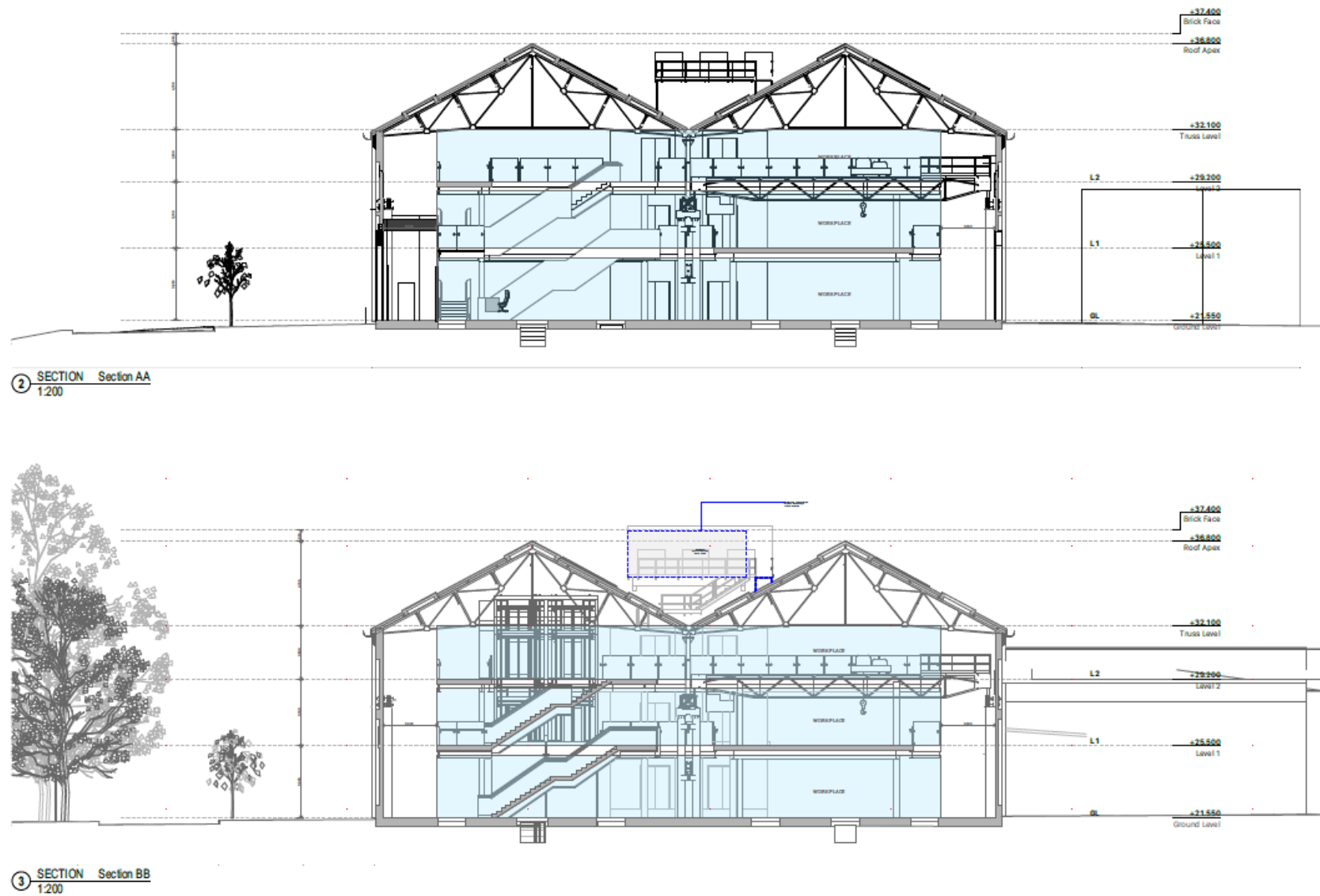


Figure 8.3: Short Section- LES Reference scheme only for the Re-zoning Application. Design is subject to detailed design, SSDA and planning approvals (Source: Fjmt Studio 2022)



Figure 8.4: 3D View- Locomotive Street View 02 (Aerial) Reference scheme only for the Re-zoning Application. Design is subject to detailed design, SSDA and planning approvals' (Source: Fjmt Studio 2022)

8.2. Avoiding and Minimising Harm

While the provisions of the NPW Act hinge predominantly on the presence and protection of physical Aboriginal sites (and AHIP provides a defence against ‘harm’ to ‘Aboriginal objects’), an effective and holistic assessment of potential impact to Aboriginal cultural heritage values as posed by a development is really two-fold:

- the physical and archaeological values of sites (tangible heritage); and
- the wider social and cultural impact of a development within a landscape (often relating to more intangible Aboriginal heritage values, lacking material evidence).

8.2.1. Potential Impact to Aboriginal Object/ Sites/ Archaeology

Development activities with the potential to impact Aboriginal sites and/or potential archaeology are those that extend below the ground surface. Bulk excavation works have the highest potential to impact natural soils with the potential to retain Aboriginal archaeology (either partially or wholly).

Although the study area has been previously subject to disturbance (e.g. bulk excavation for the LES building footings, track pits etc.) the study area still has potential for intact natural soil profiles to be retained, which is also supported by geotechnical investigation results in the surrounding area. Therefore, there is potential for Aboriginal archaeological deposits associated with these natural soil profiles to be present within the study area.

Although, the generally lower lying and swamp landscape of the study area and surrounds were not likely preferable or suitable locations for intensive Aboriginal occupation and camping prior to 1788, the study area retains potential for low density artefact scatters and isolated artefacts to be present within natural undisturbed soil profiles, representative of ephemeral movement of people through the landscape and use of the area as a natural resource zone.

Should such deposits be found to be present within remnant natural soil profiles across the study area, these may have potential for moderate to high social, historical, and scientific significance, depending on the nature of the resource present. Therefore, should an Aboriginal archaeological deposit prove to be present within the study area, it will be impacted by any bulk excavation works proposed by the development.

There are no registered Aboriginal sites located directly within or in close proximity to the LES, Eveleigh study area.

Error! Reference source not found. summarised the potential type and degree of impact and harm that the proposed development activities may have to Aboriginal archaeology (should it be present within the study area).

Table 9.1: Type and Degree of Impact and Harm that Development Activities may cause to Aboriginal sites

Activity	Type of Harm	Degree of harm	Consequence of harm
Excavation for piling and lift pit	Direct	Total (TBC)	Total loss of value (dependent on nature of PAD present within the study area)

8.2.2. Potential Impact to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Values

As discussed in the introduction to this section above, intangible Aboriginal heritage values of a site or area are as important to the local Aboriginal community, if not more important, as the more tangible and physical evidence of Aboriginal life and culture that remains in the landscape.

High cultural and social values have been expressed as being connected to the Redfern and Everleigh area generally, inclusive of the study area, however no site-specific cultural and social values have been identified through consultation with Project RAPs.

It is anticipated that through ongoing Aboriginal community consultation and stakeholder engagement as part of subsequent stages of the LES Project and through development of the CwC Framework, additional social and cultural values may be identified. The impact of physical works on any cultural or social values that are identified following finalisation of this document will be assessed in a secondary ACHAR to be prepared for future SSDA works.

For the purposes of this ACHAR, site works are limited to rezoning and accordingly it is concluded that the proposed works will not cause direct harm to any Aboriginal objects or areas of cultural value located within the study area. Further consultation will be undertaken in the next stages of the project.

The Project has the potential to create meaningful opportunities for Aboriginal cultural heritage interpretation and the activation of the space through co-design and as part of the CwC process.

8.2.3. Cumulative Impact Assessment

An assessment of cumulative impacts considers the combination of individual effects from various sources over time. An assessment of cumulative impacts will be updated as part of the physical works under the SSDA stage of the Project.

8.3. Proposed Conservation (Avoidance)

The study area retains a **low to moderate potential for intact Aboriginal archaeological deposits** to be present in a subsurface capacity, as well as in disturbed contexts within upper disturbed soil profiles. This assessment may be refined following receipt of geotechnical testing results.

The current proposed works and development includes the proposal for bulk excavation for lift pits and service trenches within the study area. Therefore, should Aboriginal archaeology be present within the study area, it will be unable to be conserved or avoided by the proposed works.

However, as discussed in the section above, with respect to intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage values, the development presents an opportunity to conserve, enhance, and improve communication and celebration of Aboriginal cultural heritage values via integration into the design concept, heritage interpretation initiatives, and overall approach to the development.

8.4. Harm to Aboriginal Object and Values

Table 9.2 presents a summary of the Aboriginal objects/sites that have the potential to be harmed through the proposed development works and summarises the type and degree of physical harm the proposed development may present. N.B. The potential harm proposed to this site is dependent on the results of the geotechnical investigations and testing within the study area to assess whether intact natural soils are present within the study area and whether or not Aboriginal archaeological test excavation will be required.

Table 9.2: Potential Harm to Aboriginal Sites/Objects and Values

Site	Type of Harm	Degree of harm	Consequence of harm
Potential Aboriginal Deposit	Direct	Total (if present only)	TBC

9. Heritage Interpretation

9. Heritage Interpretation

The following chapter has drawn upon Curio Projects 2022 *Heritage Interpretation Plan* for the Large Erecting Shop. For more information, please see Curio's 2022 *Heritage Interpretation Plan* and *Public Art Strategy* completed for the LES.

9.1. Introduction

The purpose of the interpretation plan is to provide a working framework for the implementation and installation of interpretative elements across the Large Erecting Shop site. There are a large range of interpretive products and initiatives available to ensure that the key stories at a site are told effectively, authentically, accurately, and as engaging as possible.

At this stage of the interpretation planning process, the purpose is to clearly identify a range of interpretive themes and storylines that may be able to be implemented as part of the interpretation for the site.

It is not intended that all suggested interpretive products are to be implemented, but rather that they are identified to provide appropriate options for further discussion and consideration during the next stage of planning (Stage 2 HIP).

The final interpretative products, including their detailed design, content preparation and implementation will be determined by the client in consultation with Curio Projects, key stakeholders, and relevant parties as part of the Stage 2 and Stage 3 of the Interpretation Planning process.

9.2. Public Art & Co-Design

Where appropriate, the overall heritage interpretation approach will also be integrated with the Large Erecting Shop Public Art Strategy, particularly in relation to Aboriginal heritage and involvement of Aboriginal artists.

To ensure culturally appropriate developments embedded in Country are integrated into the interpretative public art, it is essential that Aboriginal artists/designers/curators, with appropriate permissions and intellectual property rights in place, work with project design teams.

It is recommended that a program of public art for the precinct should be developed in consideration of interpretive themes, embedding heritage messages within the artistic expressions at the subject site. This is especially important in the case of engaging and co-designing with Aboriginal artists and designers for involvement in future public art planning.

Aboriginal expertise should be included in specific roles within architectural/design teams in a co-design process for future development

This approach to co-design is particularly important to ensure interpretive elements at key locations throughout the site draw on Aboriginal knowledge to consider all layers and perspectives of history. This will ensure a holistic approach to heritage interpretation guaranteeing that we design with respect to the natural surrounds and draw inspiration from the local area and community. It will guide ways of acknowledging and respecting the identity of the place, the people who have shaped it and the people who have ongoing connections to it.

9.3. Storytelling Principles

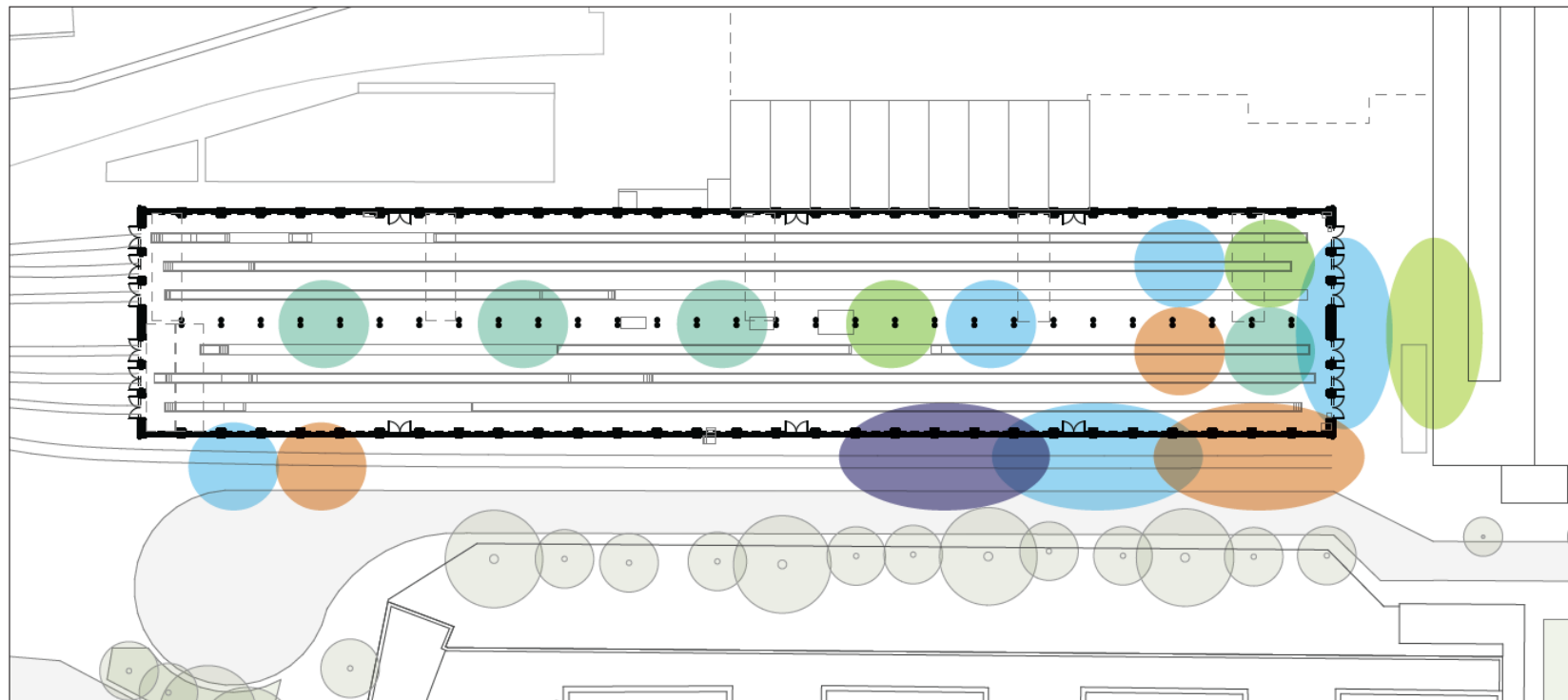
9.3.1. Themes and Storylines

The following theme has been selected and crafted to enable thematic interpretation on what makes the site historically and culturally significant to Aboriginal people.

The table also provides corresponding storylines and topics relevant to each interpretive theme.

AUSTRALIAN THEME (ABBREV)	NEW SOUTH WALES THEME	PROPOSED LES THEME	THEMATIC STORYLINE	TOPICS
Peopling Australia	• Aboriginal cultures and interacting with other cultures Activities associated with maintaining, developing, experiencing and remembering Aboriginal cultural identities and practices, past and present.	Aboriginal Connections: Past and Present	<p>Acknowledgement of the traditional ownership of the land by Aboriginal people; their enduring connection to Country; use of the land; and the impact of dislocation of Aboriginal people from their traditional land through the processes of European colonisation. Connection of Aboriginal people to the Redfern-Eveleigh area, employment of Aboriginal people at the ERW, movement of families from the country and regional areas, to Redfern, representation of Aboriginal people in the ERW records, how families lived and worked, the rise of Aboriginal activism.</p> <p>Aboriginal people would have worked within the Locomotive Workshops, but also within the Large Erecting Shop. In addition, the whole South Eveleigh precinct lies within a significant Aboriginal landscape and community hub (i.e. Eveleigh/Redfern area).</p> <p>Many Aboriginal people were employed at Eveleigh, and their involvement in the fight for better workplace conditions and unionism at Eveleigh is often suggested to be the start of an increase of Aboriginal activism in the area.</p> <p>Opportunities for interpretation exist within the LES as well as generally in the public domain, that link to the wider Aboriginal community of the area, and encourage accessible and visible Aboriginal heritage interpretation such as public artwork to be present within the public domain.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connection to Country • Darug language • Aboriginal Totems • Environmental significance • Natural resources • Displacement and Migration • Local Aboriginal community • Employment at Eveleigh

9.3.2. Thematic Mapping



Figures 4.2
Thematic zones

- Aboriginal Connections:
Past and Present
- Work, Safety and Strikes
- Wheel of life
- Tools of the trade
- A changing
neighbourhood

Figure 9.1: Thematic Zones. Areas outside LES study area boundary is subject to confirmation from TAHE (Source: Curio Projects)

9.4. Potential Interpretive Products

There are a large range of interpretive products and initiatives available to ensure that the key stories at a site are told in the most effective and engaging manner possible.

For more information and details please see Curio Projects 2022 *Heritage Interpretation Plan* for the Large Erecting Shed.

9.4.1. Landscape (Native Gardens, inlays, seating)

Seating is a key design feature in the public domain, allowing groups of people to dwell, meet and connect. Embedding heritage interpretation elements on and within gathering spaces provides a rich context and engagement.

It recalls the practice of gathering in the public domain often referred to in the Aboriginal community as 'yarning'. Yarning circles, spaces which enable and enhance communication, are regarded as an important cultural practice within Aboriginal culture.

Developed in consultation with Aboriginal knowledge holders, the inclusion of yarning circles in the public domain could be a powerful interpretive device, as well as facilitating meaningful interactions and connections amongst groups and individuals.

Utilising patterning, text and graphic images with interpretive elements throughout the public domain provides an engaging opportunity for people to pause, read and reflect absorbing messages and stories about the site.

The heritage interpretation within public domain areas should work in collaboration with the landscape architects, Aboriginal artists/designers and knowledge holders, and the community to further develop appropriate locations and potential implementations across the site. Similar techniques have been used at the nearby South Eveleigh redevelopment.

9.4.2. Welcome to Country

A Welcome to Country is to acknowledge the traditional owners, knowledge holders and elders, their stories, their song lines and custodianship of the land. By doing so, we are being welcomed to the land.

Acknowledgement of Country is generally done by a stakeholder, knowledge holder or personnel within the space to acknowledge those owners and custodians that have come before. A welcome is only done by a traditional owner.

It is recommended that a Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of the traditional custodians of the land, be installed at prominent location within the development, possibly at main entrance to the building or in the exterior public domain to provide an opportunity for respectful pause and reflection before entering the land.

A sound recording of acknowledgement could potentially play. The Welcome to Country could be in the form of a designed element created by an Aboriginal artist, as well as inclusion of a sound recording or digital Acknowledgement message. The message should be both the Sydney language group and English.

9.4.3. Public Art

Public art can be an evocative and successful tool in interpreting the heritage significance of a site while also enhancing its aesthetic and cultural character. Interpretive public art is a powerful tool of

cultural expression, able to tell stories and visually communicate cultural messages to a wide audience.

Integration of public art will provide an opportunity for the site's multi-faced history to be communicated in a visually engaging way. Public art is a powerful medium for heritage interpretation in its ability to reflect the unique history and stories associated with a site, as well as the connections of former workers, the local Aboriginal community, and former residents.

By working with specialists such as collection and exhibition designers, local artists and digital producers, heritage stories and concepts can be effectively and creatively communicated to a wide range of audiences.

A Public Art Strategy has been prepared for the Mirvac redevelopment of the site, and the heritage interpretation process will work closely with their various artists on the development and implementation of this strategy to help showcase heritage themes through public art installations.

The Public Art Strategy recommends integrating large scale art within the public zones of the Large Erecting Shop redevelopment. For example, a large-scale artwork on the north east entrance of the site would provide a visual focal point to draw people along Locomotive Street. This opportunity could represent one of the five elements significance to the local Aboriginal community.

The design and production of public artworks with Aboriginal cultural themes must be undertaken by Aboriginal artists/designers with links to the local community to ensure clarity and depth of message, as well as following the guidelines outlined in the Public Art Strategy for the Large Erecting Shop.

9.5. Summary of Recommendations

The following recommendations are made with respect to the overall plan which responds to Aboriginal heritage interpretation.

- This Heritage Interpretation Plan (HIP) must be used to inform and develop interpretive designs for the project.
- The Heritage Interpretation Plan (HIP) must be superseded/or supplemented with the detailed Stage 2 HIP which outlines a final heritage interpretation overlay as part of any development work proposed to be undertaken on site (following on from this re-zoning phase of the project, should re-zoning be approved).
- The overall heritage interpretation approach should also be integrated with the Public Art Strategy, particularly in relation to Aboriginal heritage and involvement of Aboriginal artists. A world-class program of public art for the precinct should be developed in consideration of interpretive themes, embedding heritage messages within the artistic expressions at the subject site. This is especially important in the case of engaging Aboriginal artists and designers for involvement in future public art planning.
- The Heritage Interpretation Plan (HIP) should link interpretive elements to key Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal historic heritage themes

- Interpretive elements should be co-designed with Aboriginal knowledge holders and artists/designers, with appropriate permissions and intellectual property rights in place.
- Key policies and guidelines relating to heritage interpretation, including Heritage NSW (2005) Heritage Interpretation Policy and Interpreting Heritage Places and Items Guidelines, GANSW (2020) Connecting with Country framework, and Transport for NSW /Sydney Trains, 2019) Heritage Interpretation guidelines should be referenced

10. Conclusions & Recommendations

10. Conclusions & Recommendations

10.1. Conclusions

This report relates specifically to the LES, Eveleigh study area in relation to potential Aboriginal and cultural heritage impacts. The following conclusions and recommendations are made based on:

- Legislation as detailed and adhered to through this report, including the NPW Act and relevant OEH (now part of Heritage NSW) statutory guidelines, protecting Aboriginal cultural and archaeological objects and places in NSW;
- Background research and archaeological analysis of the study area in its local and regional contexts;
- Consultation with the local Aboriginal community regarding the cultural significance of the study area and surrounding region, noting their concern, views, and requests; and
- Providing general assessment on the LES study area as a guide for the proponent until detailed impact assessments can be made once proposed works are developed.

The following conclusions are made with respect to Aboriginal cultural heritage and Aboriginal archaeology in relation to the Re-Zoning proposal and future development of the LES, Eveleigh, as follows:

- No registered Aboriginal sites are located within the study area
- Aboriginal site types most likely to be located in the Eveleigh region and study area are Potential Archaeological Deposits and isolated artefact sites
- Few Aboriginal archaeological excavations and investigations have been undertaken across the Eveleigh area to date, resulting in limited archaeological data and context available for comparison
- Historical development within the study area has resulted in disturbance and impact to upper natural soil profiles, however the study area has not previously been subject to extensive bulk excavation.
- Due to the proximity to Blackwattle Creek and likely non-perennial drainage lines and swamps, the study area has potential for low density artefact scatters and isolated artefacts to be present within natural undisturbed soil profiles, representative of ephemeral movement or short-term occupation of people through the landscape and use of the area as a natural resource zone.
- Geotechnical testing undertaken 15m east of the study area beneath the Locomotive Workshop footprint, suggests intact natural soils may be retained beneath historical fill.
- Should such deposits be found to be present within remnant natural soil profiles across the study area, these may have potential for moderate to high social, historical, and scientific significance, depending on the nature of the resource present.
- The study area has **low to moderate** potential for intact Aboriginal archaeological deposits to be present, mostly likely in the form of low density or isolated stone artefact sites representative of general Aboriginal movement across and use of the Redfern

landscape. This assessment may be refined following receipt of geotechnical testing results.

- Should an Aboriginal archaeological deposit prove to be present within the study area, it will be impacted by any bulk excavation works proposed by the development.
- The study area has been assessed to have the potential to contain subsurface archaeological deposits, with a recommendation for sub surface investigations during the SSDA stage of the Project. Should subsequent stages of works identify archaeological deposits be present within the study area, they have the potential to hold social, historical and scientific values and as such would be reassessed against the relevant criteria.
- The Re-zoning Proposal and future development at the LES, Eveleigh site represents a significant opportunity to have an overall **positive impact to Aboriginal cultural heritage values** through the proposed introduction of meaningful heritage interpretation initiatives, as well as the integration of Aboriginal cultural heritage values and outcomes into the project design.
- The CwC framework currently under development will inform the assessment of cultural values in the secondary ACHAR which will include recommendations to guide intangible heritage values.
- A copy of the draft report was provided to all project RAPs for their review and comment (Stage 4 of the statutory consultation guidelines), prior to finalisation of the report).

10.2. Recommendations

The following recommendations are made for the LES, Eveleigh, project, with respect to Aboriginal cultural heritage values, archaeological potential and legislative and statutory requirements:

- Geotechnical Investigations should be undertaken across the footprint of the study area. This will allow a better understanding of any intact natural soil deposits within the study area and help in determining if Aboriginal archaeological test excavations will be required.
- A secondary ACHAR is prepared to support the SSDA for physical works within the study area. The secondary ACHAR should be informed by the completed CwC framework, geotechnical testing results and Aboriginal community consultation in line with the Consultation Guidelines.
- If geotechnical results identify any remnant soil landforms, a program of Aboriginal archaeological test excavations should be undertaken as part of the secondary ACHAR at the study area prior to any ground disturbing works to determine whether subsurface Aboriginal archaeological deposits are present. Specifically:
 - An archaeological test excavation methodology and archaeological research design (ARD) document should be prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice where applicable, establishing the research framework and methodological approach to guide the test excavation.
 - Any Aboriginal archaeological test excavation undertaken at the study area should work in collaboration with, or in acknowledgement of, any required historical archaeological investigation, should it be required (subject to the recommendations of a separate report).

- The Aboriginal Heritage Interpretation Plan should be developed and implemented for the development.
- Continuing consultation with the identified RAPs should be undertaken throughout the project and continued during future planning for development within the LES study area.
- Establish an Aboriginal reference group that will guide the design and interpretation for all future planning approvals within the LES study area.
- The Connecting with Country framework should be addressed during planning for all future developments at the LES.
- The Statement of Significance for the study area should be updated following completion of the CwC framework.

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Appendices

Appendix A – Consultation Log

<Information Redacted for Public Exhibition>

Appendix B – Consultation Documentation

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Appendix C- AHIMS Results

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