

Appendix L

Non-Aboriginal (historic) heritage assessment



**TOWNSON ROAD UPGRADE STAGE 1
BETWEEN RICHMOND ROAD AND JERSEY ROAD**

Non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment

Prepared for GHD on behalf of Transport for NSW

Blacktown Local Government Area

November 2020

Ref. 1814

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1 Introduction

1.1 Proposal background

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) is proposing to construct a four-lane divided road along Townson Road/Burdekin Road corridor linking Richmond Road, Marsden Park in the west and Burdekin Road, Schofields in the east. The length of the overall program of work is about 3.6 kilometres.

The overall program of work consists of two stages:

- Stage 1 (the proposal) involves an upgrade of about 1.6 kilometres of road extending from Richmond Road to south of Jersey Road (see Figure 3)
- Stage 2 is about two kilometres in length involving the construction of a new road between the Stage 1 tie-in and Burdekin Road.

Stage 2 is subject to a separate planning approval.

Staged delivery of the proposal would involve:

- Interim phase- two lanes plus earthworks (Figure 3).
- Ultimate phase- completion of remainder of the works for a four-lane dual carriageway.

The proposal is located within the Marsden Park Industrial and West Schofields precincts of the North West Growth Area, about 37 kilometres north-west of the Sydney central business district and three kilometres west of Schofields.

TfNSW is the proponent of the proposal, and an environmental assessment in the form of a Review of Environmental factors (REF) is being prepared in accordance with the requirements of Division 5.1 of the *NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). Kelleher Nightingale Consulting Pty Ltd (KNC) was engaged by GHD on behalf of TfNSW to prepare a non-Aboriginal (historical) heritage assessment to document the potential non-Aboriginal heritage impacts of the proposal.

1.2 Proposal outline

The study area for this assessment encompasses the existing Townson Road corridor between Richmond Road and Victory Road, as well as a portion of the existing Meadow Road corridor between Victory Road and Jersey Road/Durham Road. It is anticipated that the majority of proposed works will take place within the existing road corridor; however, minor widening may be required to accommodate road construction works. The study area is shown in Figures 1 and 2. Figure 3 shows the key features of the proposal (both interim and completed).

The key features of the proposal are shown in Figure 3 and include:

- Widening and upgrading about 1.6 kilometres of Townson Road, between Richmond Road and Durham Road/Jersey Road, to provide:
 - Two traffic lanes, about 3.5 metres wide in each direction
 - A new section of Townson Road about 250 metres long, to the east of the existing alignment, between Meadow Road and Durham Road/Jersey Road
 - A temporary connection road extending from the stub to Durham Road/Jersey Road to maintain access and connectivity until Stage 2 is operational
 - A new southbound slip lane at Richmond Road intersection from Townson Road.
- Constructing two bridges, each about 36 metres long, to reduce flooding afflux with one bridge over Bells Creek and another bridge about 50 metres east of Bells Creek
- Providing two new signalised intersections allowing all turning movements to and from Townson Road/Victory Road/A New Road, and formalised pedestrian crossings at each leg of the signalised intersections
- Constructing stubs for Victory Road north and the new road to the north and south of the Townson Road intersection, with a traffic lane in each direction about 3.5 metres wide and a footway on either side, about 1.2 metres wide
- Providing a shared path about three metres wide for pedestrians and cyclists on the southern side of Townson Road along the length of the proposal, and a pedestrian crossing across the new southbound slip lane from Townson Road to Richmond Road
- Providing a footpath about 1.2 metres wide on the northern side of Townson Road along the length of the proposal and at the intersections.

This interim phase allows the surrounding developments to progress and allows utilities to be relocated to their ultimate location. It is anticipated that construction of the interim phase would commence in early 2022 and would be open to traffic in 2023. Completion of the ultimate phase of the proposal would take place around five years after completion of the interim phase.

1.3 Assessment process

This heritage assessment has been designed to inform the planning and design process and identify potential non-Aboriginal heritage constraints associated with the lands where the proposed infrastructure will be installed.

The scope of the non-Aboriginal heritage assessment included the following tasks:

- undertake background research, including a search of statutory and non-statutory registers and review the available history of the study area and ascertain if any listed items may be impacted by the proposed activities
- undertake inspection and assessment of the study area to determine whether any historic sites or places are located within or adjacent to the study area, to record any sites located and determine the potential for archaeological deposits to exist within the study area
- assess the impact of the proposal on the cultural heritage significance of the study area
- provide management recommendations to avoid, minimise or mitigate against impacts to any identified cultural heritage values of the study area.

1.4 Summary of findings

The study area exhibits a low level of local non-Aboriginal heritage significance linked to a wider historic cultural landscape representing early 19th Century settlement of the region. The study area does not contain any listed non-Aboriginal heritage relics. Background review of the historical aerials, maps and documents indicate a moderate potential for subsurface archaeological deposits within the southwestern parts of the study area that are associated with the first subdivision and residential development of the area. Archaeological survey of the study area did not identify any surface remains and the area of potential historical remains was highly disturbed. Potential archaeological deposits could not be associated with any person, group of persons, or particular community of importance to NSW cultural or natural history. Therefore, significance of the potential archaeological deposits could not be determined at this stage of the assessment. The proposed works may have an impact upon subsurface archaeological deposits that might yield information that could contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural history, particularly towards the understanding of the first residential development in the local area; however as the ground surface and subsurface were highly disturbed the archaeological potential is very low.

The proposal will not impact on any known heritage relics within the study area. There is a low potential that subsurface archaeological deposits are present within the south-western portion of the study area. Contingency plans should be implemented in the event that historical items are recovered during any subsurface ground works. All the works should cease, the area should be fenced off and further archaeological assessment will be required by an archaeologist. The proposed works may proceed with caution. No further archaeological assessment is required in other parts of the study area where the archaeological potential is assessed as low.

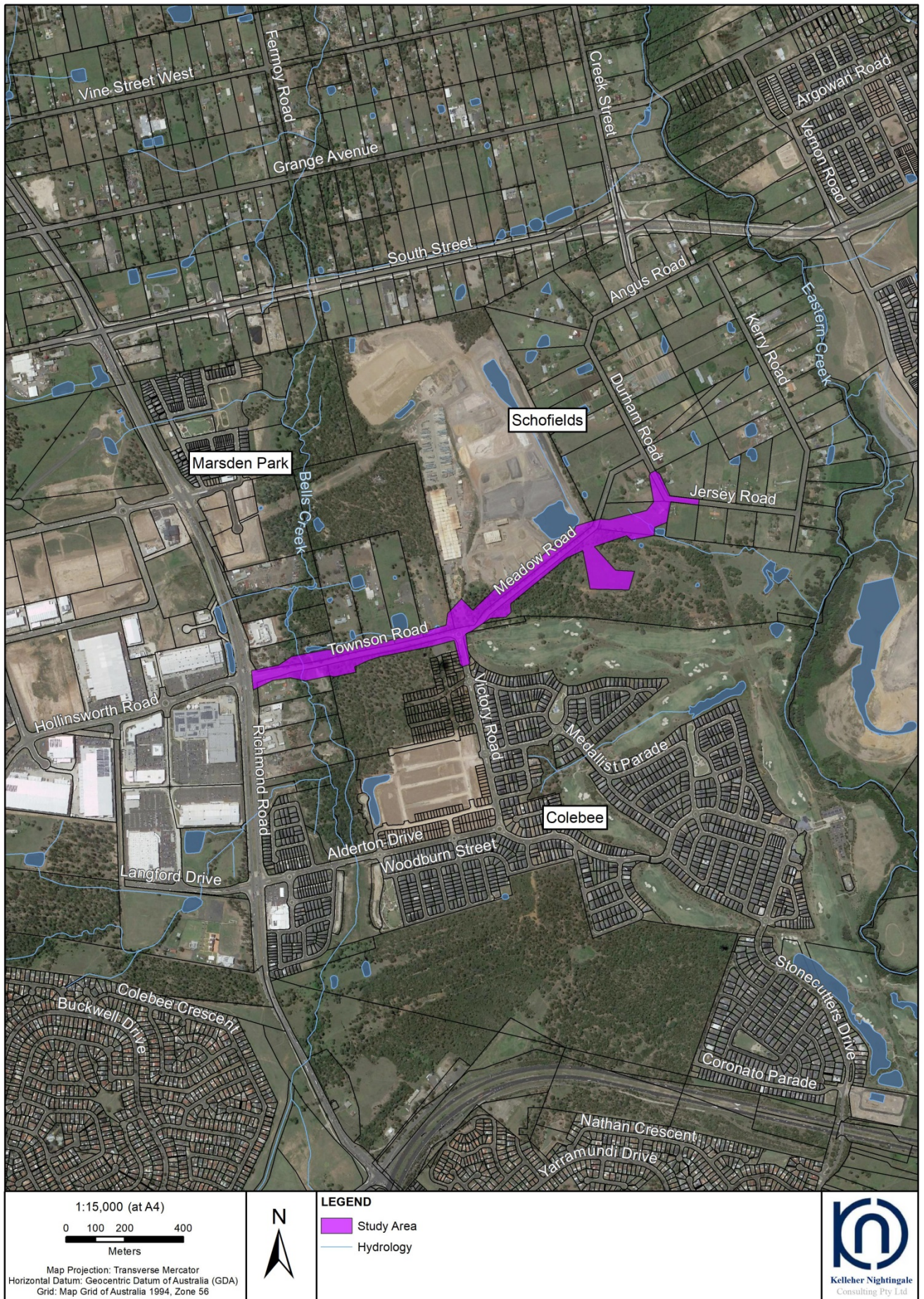


Figure 1. Location of Stage 1 study area



Figure 2. Detail of the study area

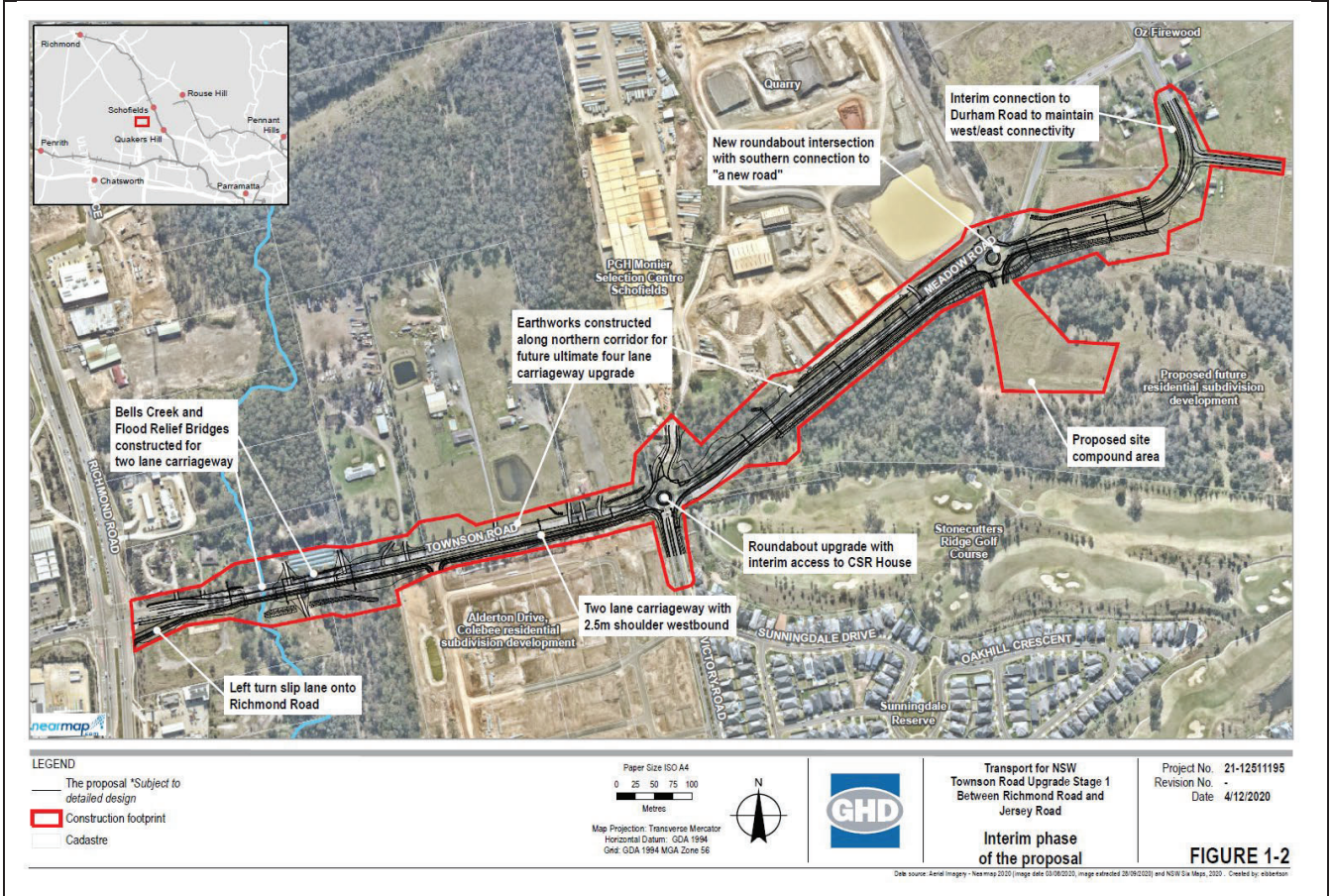
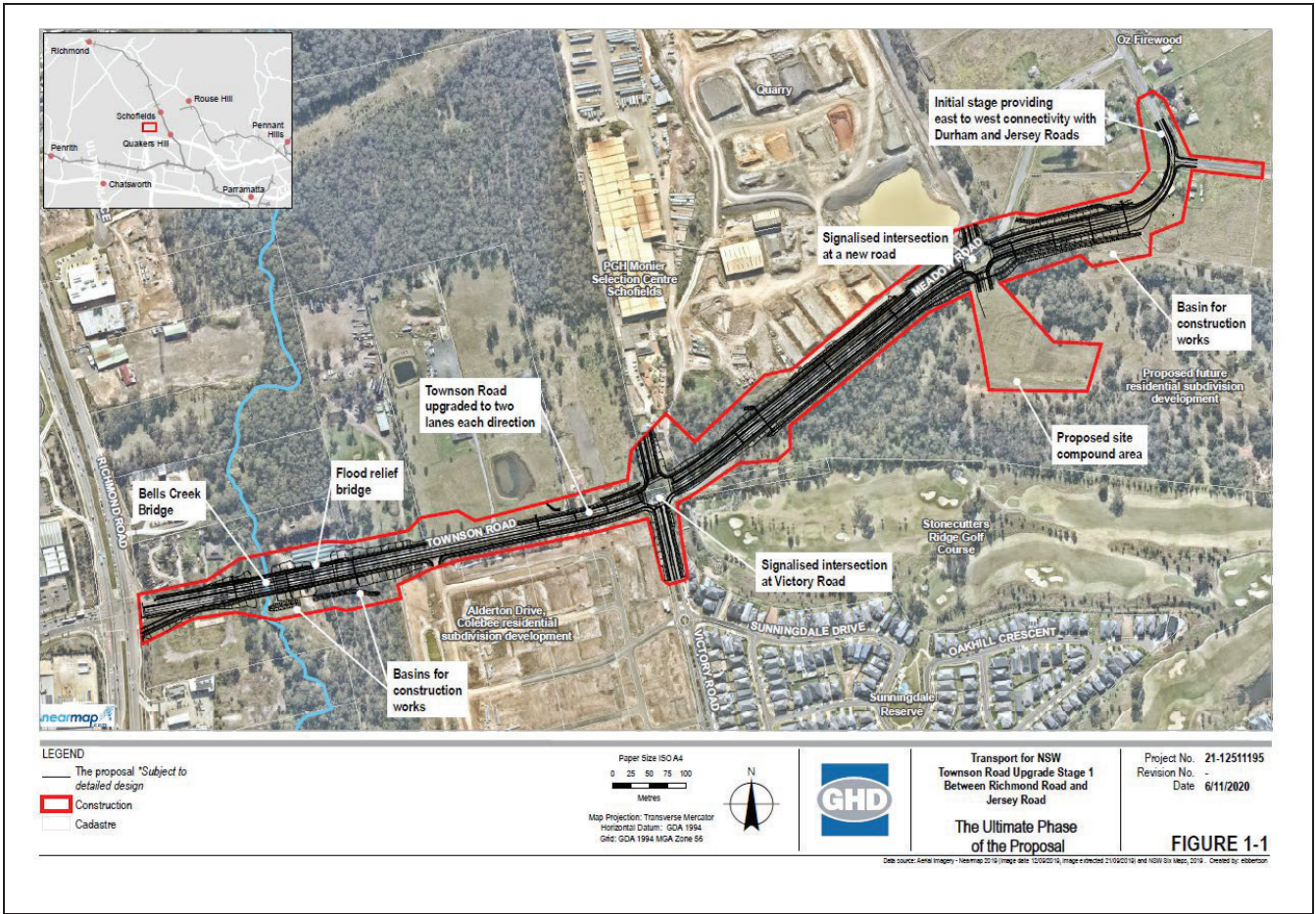


Figure 3. Key features of Stage 1 (top) and the interim proposal (bottom)

2 Legislative Requirements

2.1 Heritage Act 1977

Places of heritage value can be subject to different levels of recognition and protection. This protection (at local, State and Commonwealth levels) includes specific measures for the protection of heritage items. The NSW *Heritage Act 1977* (as amended 2009) is the primary statutory control dealing with non-Aboriginal heritage within the study area. The following sections of the Act must be considered in relation to any development having the potential to harm items of historic heritage.

Section 31 of the Act provides that a State Heritage Register (SHR) is to be maintained by the Heritage Council of NSW. Items can only be listed or removed at the direction of the Minister. Under Section 57(1) a person must not harm a place, building, work, relic, moveable object, precinct, or land listed on the SHR without the approval of the Heritage Council of NSW.

No SHR listed items are located within or in the immediate vicinity of the study area, therefore Section 57(1) does not apply in this instance.

Section 4(1) of the Act defines *harm* to include *damage, despoil, move or alter* a relic or moveable object. A relic is defined in the Act as follows: “relic means any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that: relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and is of State or local heritage significance”.

Under Section 139 of the Act, a person may not disturb or excavate land to discover, expose, move, damage or destroy a relic unless the disturbance or excavation is carried out in accordance with an excavation permit issued under Section 140 of the Act. In addition, a person must not disturb or excavate any land on which a relic has been discovered or exposed except in accordance with an excavation permit.

Where archaeological relics would be disturbed, the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE, formerly Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)) Heritage Division requires an archaeological assessment and research design to be submitted when applying for a Section 140 permit. The research design, prepared by the archaeologist undertaking the works, should clearly set out the approach and methodology for managing the archaeological deposits.

2.2 Blacktown Local Environment Plan 2015

Heritage items are protected under the provisions of the Blacktown Local Environment Plan (LEP) (2015). Part 5 Clause 5.10 lists the actions which require development consent from Council. Heritage items and archaeological sites are listed in Schedule 5 to the LEP.

There are no heritage items identified in Schedule 5 that are located within or immediately adjacent to the study area.

Under the Blacktown LEP 2015, development consent is required for works disturbing or excavating an archaeological site while knowing, or having reasonable cause to suspect, that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed.

2.3 Blacktown City Council (BCC) Growth Centre Precincts Development Control (DCP) Plan July 2018

The BCC Growth Centre Precincts DCP came into force in May 2010 and has been repeatedly amended in recent years. This DCP applies only to Precincts where precinct planning has been completed. Section 2.3.3 (5) of the DCP states that: “Applications for subdivision and building on the properties identified on the European cultural heritage sites figure, in the relevant Precinct’s Schedule, are to be accompanied by a report from a suitably qualified heritage consultant detailing the results of archaeological investigation undertaken to confirm the presence of archaeological material relating to the heritage site. Where archaeological material is identified, the proposal is to address the requirements of the *Heritage Act 1977*.” As Precinct planning is completed for each precinct, the DCP is updated to add completed precincts into separate Schedules.

The study area is located across two scheduled precincts, and one precinct which has yet to be formally scheduled in an amendment but for which the draft schedule is now available:

- *Schedule 3 – Marsden Park Industrial Precinct*; the westernmost part of the study area, incorporating the Townson Road corridor from Richmond Road to Bells Creek
- *Schedule 7 – West Schofields (Townson Road) Precinct*; the southern portion of the Townson Road corridor, from Bells Creek to Victory Road.

- *DRAFT Schedule 9 – West Schofields Precinct*; the northern portion of the Townson Road corridor, from Bells Creek to the study area’s eastern boundary.

Schedule 3 (MPIP) and Schedule 7 (West Schofields (Townson Road)) do not contain any listed non-Aboriginal heritage items or identified areas of historical archaeological potential. The draft Schedule 9 (West Schofields) does not contain any listed items of non-Aboriginal heritage but indicates several areas described as “moderate potential to contain archaeological heritage”. One of these is located partially within the current study area (Figure 4), comprising an area associated with the Ivory Farm (see section 3 of this report).

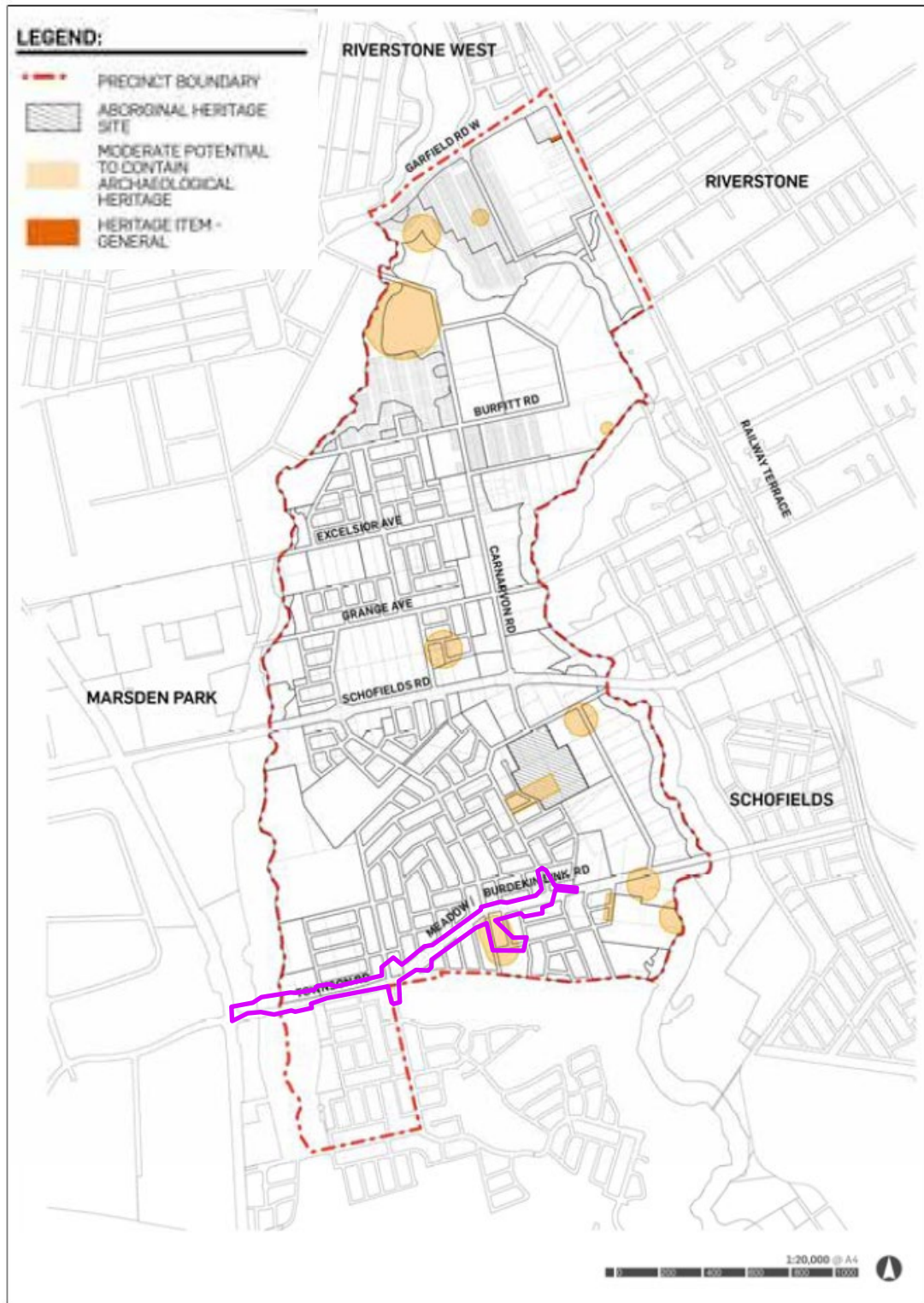


Figure 4. Non-indigenous cultural heritage described in BCC Growth Centre DCP (2018), *DRAFT Schedule 9 – West Schofields Precinct*. Approximate location of the study area outlined in purple.

2.4 Sydney Environmental Planning Policy (Sydney Region Growth Centres) 2006

The State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) is the environmental planning instrument which sets controls for the North West, South West and the Wilton Growth Centres of Sydney. The SEPP contains a number of precinct plans referring to particular areas. The study area is located within the North West Growth Centre, primarily in the original West Schofields Precinct, with a small section extending into the Marsden Park Industrial Precinct (MPIP) near Richmond Road.

Part 5 Clause 5.10 lists the actions which require development from a consent authority. Heritage assessment might be required from a consent authority for land on which a heritage item is located, for land that is within a heritage conservation area, or for land that is within the vicinity of those lands. A heritage management document would assess the extent to which the carrying out of the proposed development would affect the heritage significance of the heritage item or heritage conservation area concerned.

The Precinct Plan and masterplan for West Schofields is currently under development and was placed on public exhibition in 2018. The draft *West Schofields - North West Growth Centre - Heritage Map* prepared for the Precinct shows no heritage items in the vicinity of the study area. For the portion of the study area within the MPIP, the MPIP Precinct Plan and associated heritage mapping shows no heritage items in the vicinity of the study area.

2.5 Other Heritage Listings

Heritage registers, lists and databases (both statutory and non-statutory) and various Planning Instruments were searched for listed historical heritage items within or adjacent to the study area. Sources included the following:

- UNESCO World Heritage List
- State Heritage Register
- State Heritage Inventory
- *Heritage Act 1977* Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Registers, including Roads and Maritime Services, State Water, Water NSW, Department of Planning and Infrastructure, and Sydney Water
- Commonwealth Heritage List
- National Heritage List
- Australian Heritage Database
- Australian Heritage Places Inventory
- Register of the National Estate (non-statutory archive).

There are no historical (non-Aboriginal) heritage items listed on statutory heritage registers or planning instruments (both active and repealed) within the study area. One area of moderate archaeological potential is described in the draft Schedule 9 (West Schofields) amendment to the BCC Growth Centre Precincts DCP 2018 as indicated on Figure 4, however this is not a statutorily listed item.

World Heritage List (UNESCO)

Currently there are no items listed on the World Heritage List within or adjacent to the study area.

State Heritage Register and State Heritage Inventory

Currently there are no items listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR) within or in the immediate vicinity of the study area. The closest item is The Colebee/Nurragingy Land Grant Aboriginal post-contact site (HI 01877), 1km south of the study area.

Roads and Maritime Services Section 170 Register

The Roads and Maritime Services Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register does not list any heritage items within or adjacent to the study area.

State Water Section 170 Register

The State Water Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register does not list any heritage items within or adjacent to the study area.

Water NSW Section 170 Register

The Water NSW Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register does not list any heritage items within or adjacent to the study area.

Department of Planning and Infrastructure Section 170 Register

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register does not list any heritage items within or adjacent to the study area.

Sydney Water Section 170 Register

The Sydney Water Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register does not list any heritage items within or adjacent to the study area.

Commonwealth Heritage List

Currently there are no items listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List within or adjacent to the study area.

National Heritage List

Currently there are no items listed on the National Heritage List within or adjacent to the study area.

Australian Heritage Database, Australian Heritage Places Inventory and Register of the National Estate (non-statutory)

Currently there are no items listed on these databases within or adjacent to the study area.

3 Historical context and previous investigations

3.1 Early non-Aboriginal exploration and settlement of north-western Sydney

The study area lies within an area that was originally explored by Governor Arthur Philip in the first decade of settlement in order to establish if the Hawkesbury River connected with the Nepean River. The expedition, amongst others, included Lieutenant Tench, Surgeon White, servants, convicts, privates, sergeants and two Aboriginal guides: Colebee and Boladeree. A very rich agricultural land was unveiled with significant natural resources. A Common was set aside by Governor King in 1802 and was named 'Prospect Hill, including Toongabbee and the west side of Seven Hills Road', gazetted in August 1804. King established a total of six commons for public use in recognition of the difficulty the majority of smaller landowners were having in grazing stock on their own land which was proving insufficient for that purpose (Cole 1988:6). The actual boundaries of the Prospect Hill Common are not clear, but are considered to generally correspond to the present-day Blacktown LGA.

Eastern Creek and Breakfast Creek would have provided permanent water for stock grazing, and a track that later became Schofields Road would have given access to the rich pasturage of the river swamps. This common land seems to have been used prior to Governor King's proclamation as a Government Stock Reserve (Schofields 1985: 230). In 1806, Governor Bligh sent out Government Surveyor James Meehan to survey the area around the eastern branch of South Creek that is today known as Eastern Creek. Meehan's surveys were later used as the basis for various land releases.

When Governor Macquarie arrived in the Colony in 1810 he made the decision to release large areas of not only the six commons established by King, but also substantial areas of government reservations, as there was an ever-increasing demand for land by free settlers and emancipated convicts wanting to settle within reach of the Sydney markets. The area of land upon which the study area is located was released at this time (Cole 1988). The majority of Governor Macquarie's disposed grants consisted of between 50 and 100 acres with some prominent persons close to the Governor gaining substantially larger grants, such as Maurice O'Connell's 'Riverstone' grant of 2500 acres to the north east of the current study area. Other land grants in the area were substantially smaller.

3.2 History and development of the study area

The study area is located across a number of these original land grants, generally between 50 and 100 acres in size and extending from present day Richmond Road to Burdekin Road (Figures 5 and 7). It includes parts of the following Portions of the Gidley Parish Maps covered by the earliest land grants:

- William Burbridge, granted later to Richard Fitzgerald – 30 acres (Portion 23)
- Richard Alcorn (alternatively Allcorn) – 60 acres (Portion 24)
- William Bateman (alternatively Batman) – 60 acres (Portion 35)
- Charles Ivory (alternatively Ivery/Every) – 39 acres (Portion 36).

These original land grants were made between 1815 and 1819. Some of the grant holders were ex-convicts, such as William Bateman and Charles Ivory. Grants were conditional on the holders cultivating a certain amount of acres, generally proportional to the size of the grant. The arrangement of these early land grants either along Richmond Road or along Eastern Creek resulted in a portion of unalienated land along the ridgeline between Bells Creek and Eastern Creek. This was referred to as 'Iron Bark Range' as shown on the Gidley Parish Map from the early 1800s (Figure 5).

The northern portion of the 'Iron Bark Range' parcel (145 acres 2 roods) was promised to Charles Ivory in 1831 and granted in 1832 as Portion 29, with the southern portion divided between James Roberts (Portion 30), and Joseph Pye (Portion 31). By the 1820's Joseph Pye was buying surrounding land, including Chisholm and Suttor's properties on the eastern side of Eastern Creek (Figure 5). The census of NSW from 1828 records that John Pye in conjunction with his son Joseph, ran 762 head of cattle, with Joseph's land coming to a total of 820 acres, located both east and west of Eastern Creek (Figure 6). The census of the same year records Charles Ivory as having 40 acres at the Bathurst District and 50 acres at Castle Hill. The Bathurst District in this instance corresponds to the area around present-day Blacktown, and Ivory is listed with 40 cleared acres with 20 acres cultivated, two horses and 22 horned cattle as well as an employed labourer. Earlier land and stock records from 1822 list the Ivory's with 30 of their 39 acres cleared, with 15 acres under wheat and one acre each of barley and potatoes. Livestock included two horses and 20 hogs.

Richard Alcorn II was granted 60 acres in 1819 located to the south of present day Townson Road (Figure 5). This land parcel fronted Richmond Road opposite the extensive land grant of Richard Fitzgerald, located within the Parish of Rooty Hill. Shortly after his marriage to Charlotte Golledge in 1825, Alcorn sold his land to James Roberts, who was appointed as a Constable for Richmond Road in 1826. His address was noted as "Bulls-Head, Richmond Road" which indicates that he was most likely operating an inn on his property for travellers on the Richmond Road between Richmond and Blacktown.



Figure 5. Parish Map of Gidley, County of Cumberland, 140755. Undated. LPI Historical Land Records Viewer. Approximate location of the study area outlined in purple.

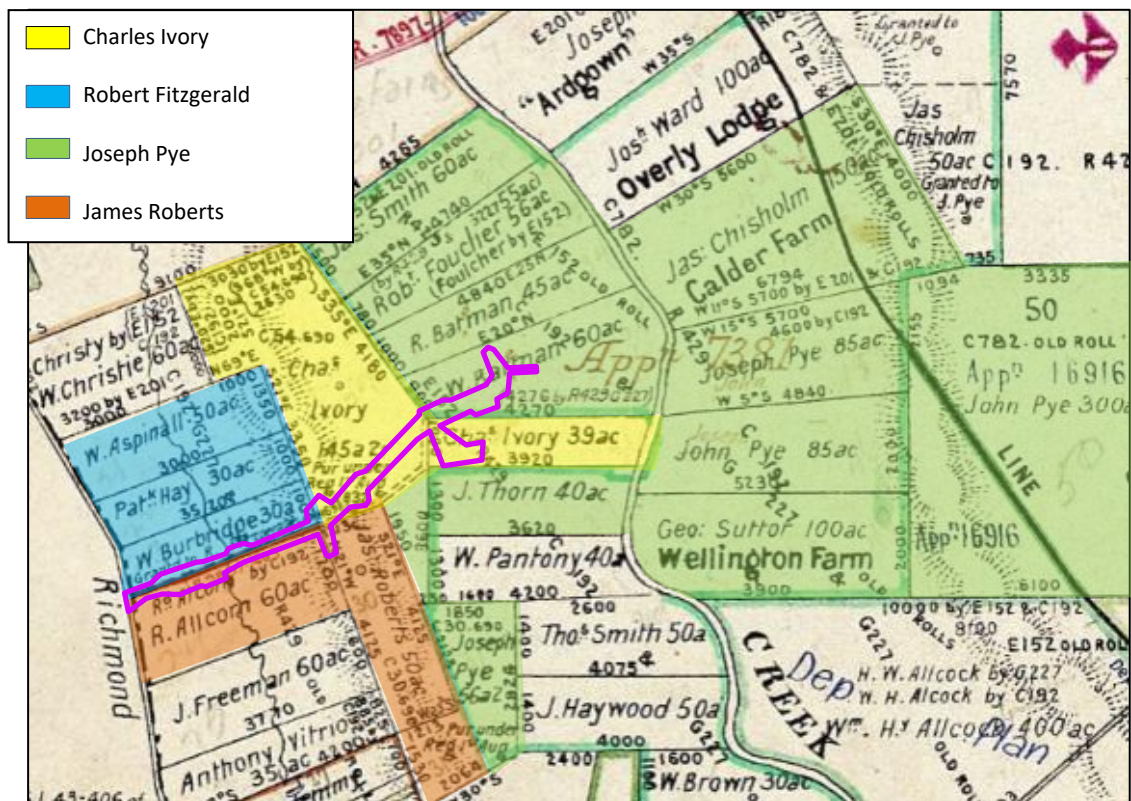


Figure 6. Parish Map of Gidley, County of Cumberland, from July 1884, 140686. LPI Historical Land Records Viewer. Consolidated land parcels during 1840s. Approximate location of the study area outlined in purple.

The smaller properties around Eastern Creek had mostly been consolidated into larger properties by 1842. These were all held by four individuals: Robert Fitzgerald, Joseph Pye, Charles Ivory and James Roberts. Figure 6 shows the extent of ownership across the study area and its immediate surroundings at this time. By this stage the precursor to Townson Road was formed, running east from Richmond Road along the boundaries of the land grants to Burbridge, Alcorn, James Roberts and Charles Ivory, with the alignment visible on early maps and plans (Figures 6 and 7).

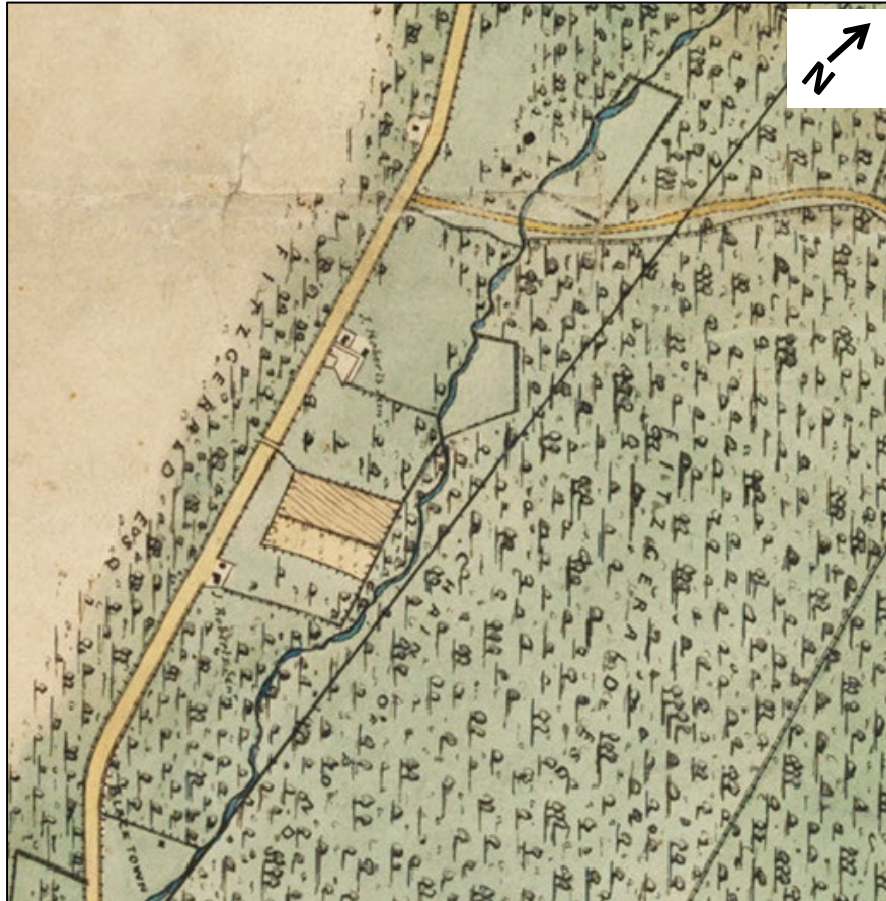


Figure 7. Detail from the 1842 ‘Plan of part of the Windsor District contained between the Old Richmond Road and the Road from Windsor’, by surveyor J. Musgrave, showing Roberts’ property adjacent to Richmond Road. State Library of NSW, Mitchell Map Collection, Z/M4 811.1122/1842/1. NB. North to top right.

Surveyor J. Musgrave’s ‘Plan of part of the Windsor District contained between the Old Richmond Road and the Road from Windsor District’ from the same year indicates that Roberts Jnr. had a building and cleared paddocks fronting Richmond Road and backing onto Bells Creek (Figure 7, see also Figure 8). Areas east of Bells Creek including the current study area were primarily uncleared at this time. Roberts later acquired additional land adjoining Alcorn’s land grant comprising 56 acres of ‘Iron Bark Range’ (Figure 6). The property continued to be in possession of the Roberts family in the following decades. It is not known how long James Roberts’ son operated the inn at the location. There is an 1856 reference to his being granted a confectioner’s licence “for house on the Blacktown-road at which the Richmond Coach stops en route to and from Parramatta, being the half-way house. This will be a convenience to passengers requiring that kind of refreshment which ‘cheers and not inebriates’” (NBRS + Partners 2012: 8).

In 1872 Grevilles Official Post Office Directory of NSW lists ‘James Roberts, farmer’ at Blacktown Road, which is an earlier alternative for Richmond Road. After his death, his daughter sold the property; in the following years the land changed ownership a few times. By 1911 the property was classified as ‘non-occupied’ suggesting that earlier inn and farm buildings were not extant at that date. The property was subdivided in 1956 into nine allotments, corresponding to the current lots between Richmond Road and Victory Road, south of Townson Road. Gordon Luke of Schofields purchased the north-eastern allotment where he established a farm. The land was mainly used for grazing with little further development. Previous historical heritage assessment of the property by NBRS + Partners confirmed that the 1920s bungalow on this lot was extensively altered and did not display any significance as a local heritage item (NBRS & Partners 2012: 28).

Lands to the west and north of Townson Road were owned by the Fitzgerald family (Figure 6). Richard Fitzgerald came as a convict in 1791, but soon became noticed for his good behaviour and agricultural background, and was granted large land parcels including 1,350 acres within the Parish of Rooty Hill, located on the western side of Richmond Road opposite the current study area (noted on Figure 7-8). By 1828 he held a total of over 14,000 acres, with 5,000 cleared and 25 cultivated. Following his death in 1840 his son, Robert, inherited his estate and maintained a large portion of land to the immediate north of Townson Road, on both sides of Bells Creek (Figure 6). Fitzgerald’s estate remained as one parcel at least until it was leased in 1921 by the then owner the Perpetual Trustee Co Ltd. Musgrave’s 1842 plan indicates that some sections of the Fitzgerald and Roberts lands on either side of Townson Road were partially cleared up to Bells Creek, but still vegetated east of Bells Creek, with no visible structures.

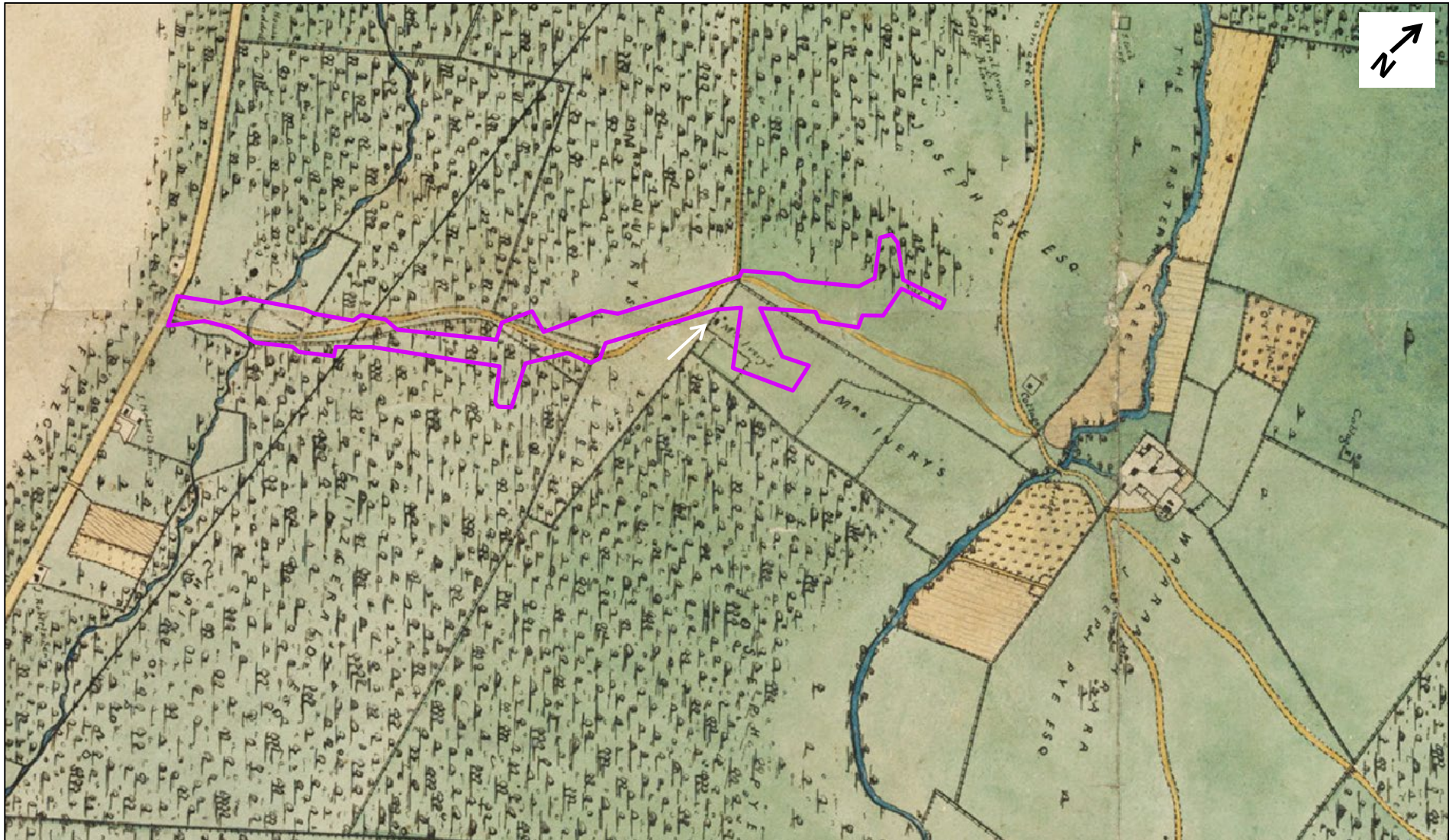


Figure 8. Detail from Musgrave's 1842 Plan showing Pye complex 'Waawaar Awa' at Eastern Creek and Mrs Ivory's lands with two structures indicated by white arrow. Approximate location of study area outlined in purple. State Library of NSW, Mitchell Map Collection, Z/M4 811.1122/1842/1). NB. North to top right.

The central part of the study area is taken up by Charles Ivory's land grant and subsequent holdings along Iron Bark Range. The initial grant of 39 acres was made in 1815, and land and stock records from 1822 list the Ivory's with 30 of their 39 acres cleared, 15 acres under wheat and one acre each of barley and potatoes. Livestock included two horses and 20 hogs. The grant register from 1823 shows Charles was later granted an additional 50 acres at Castle Hill.

The 1824 Melville & Bathurst district population book records Charles, wife Anne and several of their children living in the general district, with the government returns register from later that same year showing 10 bushels of wheat tendered from their farm. The convict muster of 1825 lists Charles as 'free by servitude' and a landholder at both Parramatta and Melville. He was later assigned a convict labourer in 1825, to aid with 'farming at Eastern Creek'. The later 1828 census records Charles as a settler at the Bathurst district (Blacktown area) with 40 cleared acres of which 20 acres were cultivated, two horses and 22 horned cattle as well as an employed (free) labourer. In 1832 Charles purchased the 145 ½ acres of Iron Bark Range adjoining his existing Portion and was assigned another convict labourer. There is no definitive evidence of the Ivory residence during their years farming at Eastern Creek, with the various records not listing a homestead or residential improvements on the farm. Later biographical accounts of the family place them as residing at Richmond, and the civil birth records for their children between 1811-1828 list Windsor, Parramatta and Richmond as their places of birth. Charles died at Richmond in 1837.

The 1842 plan indicates the L-shaped landholding retained by 'Mrs Ivory' (née Anne Healey) (Figure 8) following Charles' death, the eastern portion of which ran down to Eastern Creek and had been cleared. This lot corresponds with the original 39 acre grant, which was entirely cleared and cultivated at the time of the 1828 census. Two small structures, a rectangular enclosure and two fenced off areas are clearly marked as 'Mrs Ivory's' (Figure 8). The small size of the indicated structures may suggest this was not a large or well-developed homestead complex, with the marked buildings instead probably related to the farming operation (sheds/outbuildings, stables or caretaker's huts). Anne died at North Richmond in 1864 and the property passed to Thomas Ivory, Charles and Anne's youngest son.

Thomas was heavily involved in horse racing as both a jockey and a trainer, developing a reputation as a statesman of the sport who possessed 'straightforwardness' and displayed continual 'honourable conduct' (*The Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 August 1909, 12). His long involvement with the industry resulted in him becoming well known as a man who thoroughly understood horse racing and bred many well-known and capable horses including Caulfield Cup winners (Extent Heritage 2018: 29). Thomas was an innkeeper and the licensee of the Black Swan Inn at Haymarket through the 1850s and 1860s. He maintained his racing stables on Bourke Street at Surry Hills and lived at the same location, while using the family property at Eastern Creek as a horse stud and pasture. Thomas sold the Ivory land to James Bates for the sum of £1,000 in 1894 and the property was then held by the Bates family until 1920 following James Bates' death in 1900. In 1920 it was purchased by George Blakett, who then sold to Henry and Olive Andrews in 1941. In later years the north western part of the property part of the original Iron Bark Range developed into the quarry operation which occupies it today, while the eastern part (Portion 36) was left uncultivated, partially reclaimed by regrowth trees and used by the Blacktown Minibike Club.

To the east of the study area, lands were owned by Joseph Pye, a successful farmer in the area who operated a dairy and an orchard on both sides of Eastern Creek as well as growing grain. He also bred and sold race horses and kept the first pack of foxhounds in Australia, with the Sydney Hunt Club running regular events on his land. Joseph Pye built a homestead on his property in the 1830s which he named 'Waawara Awa' after the Darug word for the area meaning 'fresh water'. By 1825, the majority of Pye's land had been cleared of vegetation leaving the land 'enclosed in paddocks, with a good garden, dwelling house, farm, out-houses and newly planted garden and orchard, of 5 acres' (*The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 7 November 1825, 4). The Waawarawaa Homestead lay on the land that would later become part of the runway at the Schofields Aerodrome. It remained with the Pye family until 1938 and was also known by the name 'Liberty Hall' and 'Liberty Estate'.

Musgrave's 1842 plan of Windsor shows the early development of the Pye farm complex (Figure 8). It shows the homestead complex, bridge crossing over Eastern Creek, and two areas planted as orchards: one to the north and the other to the immediate south of the homestead. Two small cottages are also visible, one north of the northern orchard and the other to the west of Eastern Creek along the road. Joseph Pye's orangery was highly celebrated and he won an award in 1845 at the Floral and Horticulture Show for his common and china oranges (*The Sydney Morning Herald*, 25 September 1845, p.3). The orangery was located about half a mile from the homestead, on an elevated area well sheltered from winds and comprised more than 20 acres in which 1,400 orange trees were planted (AHMS 2015: 13). The eastern extent of the current study area is within Pye's landholding, within a partially cleared area as shown on Musgrave's 1842 plan. No improvements or structures are present within this part of Pye's lands, although the study area intersects the alignment of several of the 19th century road reserves. When Joseph Pye died in 1853 the property was inherited by his son, David, who later divided it between three of his sons in 1893 (Figure 9): Sydney George Pye inherited the Homestead which included the original grants to Joseph and John Pye and to George Suttor, as well as a portion of land on the east side of the railway; Charles Ward Pye received the land on the western side of Eastern Creek; and James John Pye inherited the northern part of the property containing the original grants to Chisholm and Ward, plus a portion of the land to the east of the railway.

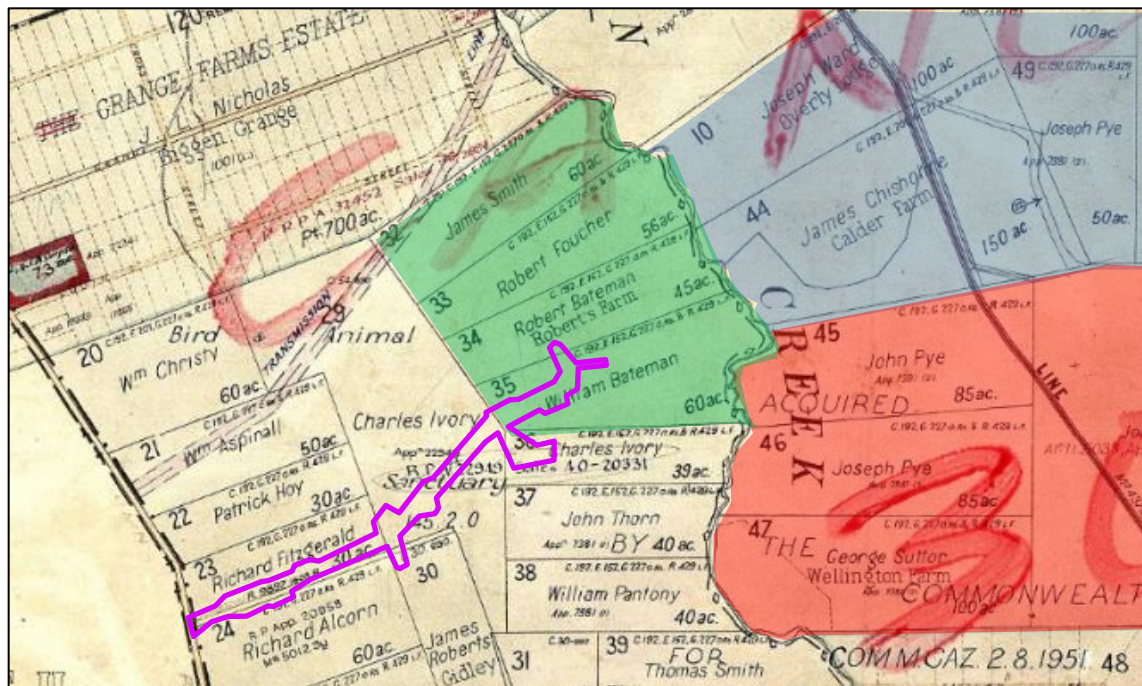


Figure 9. Parish Map of Gidley, County of Cumberland, from 1924, 140144. LPI Historical Land Records Viewer. David Pye's division of land between his three sons: James John Pye – shaded blue; Sydney George Pye – shaded red; and Charles Ward Pye – shaded green. Approximate location of the study area outlined in purple.

James John Pye became a District Councillor of Blacktown Shire, 'one of our most up to date farmers, and a public man', and also ran 'fine herd of buffalos' (bulls) on Waawaarawaa, 'the fame of which has spread throughout the length and breadth of the Commonwealth' (*The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 4 June 1910, 12). The Argus' reporter further mentions that:

"...The old homestead is on (Eastern) Creek, and is occupied by a brother, Mr S. G. Pye. The country in which the cattle run is mostly open, but it was originally forest, cleared by convicts... The herd numbers 90 heads, Mr James Pye uses the estate for other purposes than grazing, for he has three orchards, one of these being over 60 years... There are 50 acres under fruit, and I saw a fine crop of maize... The old homestead, on the creek, in on what is known as Cow Flat, where the original settler grew fine crops of wheat. After the wheat was off it was ground into flour on the place. The wheat paddock was a long strip, and this was afterwards loaned to Mr Thomas Ivory, the well-known breeder of race horses, to enable his horses to get water. Wheat is still grown..." (*The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 4 June 1910, 12).

Waawaarawaa was one of the homesteads, including Jerusalem and Clydesdale that still remained in 1928 when George Reeve listed 'the old-time neighbours' of Windsor and Riverstone. In 1938 James Pye died and his aged brother Sydney George Pye inherited the land. Sydney put both farms on market and sold to Joseph and Harold Langlade, who established 'Langlade's Dairy'. The Langlades held the dairy for four years only, constructing a number of dairy buildings near the old homestead in which they lived. The house remained in use until 1942 when it was demolished. Lands to the south and east eventually became the Schofields Aerodrome, which operated in both military and civil capacities until 1994. It was then leased for motor vehicle driver training and vehicle testing, as well as being used occasionally as a film/television shooting location. Schofields' (then titled Schofields Defence Depot) last major use was as a rehearsal ground for the Opening Ceremony of the 2000 Olympic games held in Sydney.

A review of historical aerial photos gives an indication of the changes to the study area through time. It helps to indicate whether structures that were present previously may still be present in a subsurface context. It may also aid in determining an approximate age of existing structures within the study area which may contribute to their historical value and significance.

The aerial photos in Figures 10-13 show changes in the study area between 1955 and 2018. The 1955 photo (Figure 10) shows that the principal road corridors had established their modern alignments by this time, with Townson Road and Meadow Road clearly visible. The surrounding area was partially cleared, with the establishment of regrowth trees in several areas indicated as being previously cleared on the 1842 plan, including to the east of Bells Creek and within Mrs Ivory's lots. The structures indicated within Mrs Ivory's property on the 1842 plan, as well as other farm enclosures/outbuildings south of Meadow Road, are not visible on the 1955 aerial. The date when these were removed or demolished is not known, but it is considered to be sometime before 1947 (Extent Heritage 2018: 40).

This part of the original Ivory property (corresponding to modern Lot 3 DP 232574 south of Meadow Road) was subsequently used for bike tracks, and operated for many years as the Blacktown Mini Bike Club. Visible on the 1977 aerial (Figures 11 and 12) are various tracks and areas of earthmoving and excavation. Large cuts and mounds are present. These activities are likely to have removed or significantly disturbed any traces of previous buildings or other farm structures in the area. Present-day Lot 28 DP 12076 to the north of the mini bike club property also exhibits extensive disturbance associated with a cut drainage line and erosion (Figure 12).

The CSR PGH Quarry was established between 1960-1977 and is evident on Figures 11-13 north of Meadow Road. This quarry property incorporates the former 'Iron Bark Range and the remainder of the Ivory's lands. This area has been highly disturbed by clay and shale extraction for brickmaking. Other changes visible across Figures 10-13 include vegetation clearance, establishment of fencing along the roadways, road formalisation and construction, excavation for dams and drainage modifications along the lower order creeklines, rural-residential development along Durham Road, Kerry Road and Jersey Road to the north west, and growing residential development to the south associated with the Stonecutters Ridge development.



Figure 10. Aerial from 1955 showing the current study area outlined in purple (approximate). Source: NSWLPI (Extent Heritage 2018:Figure 16)

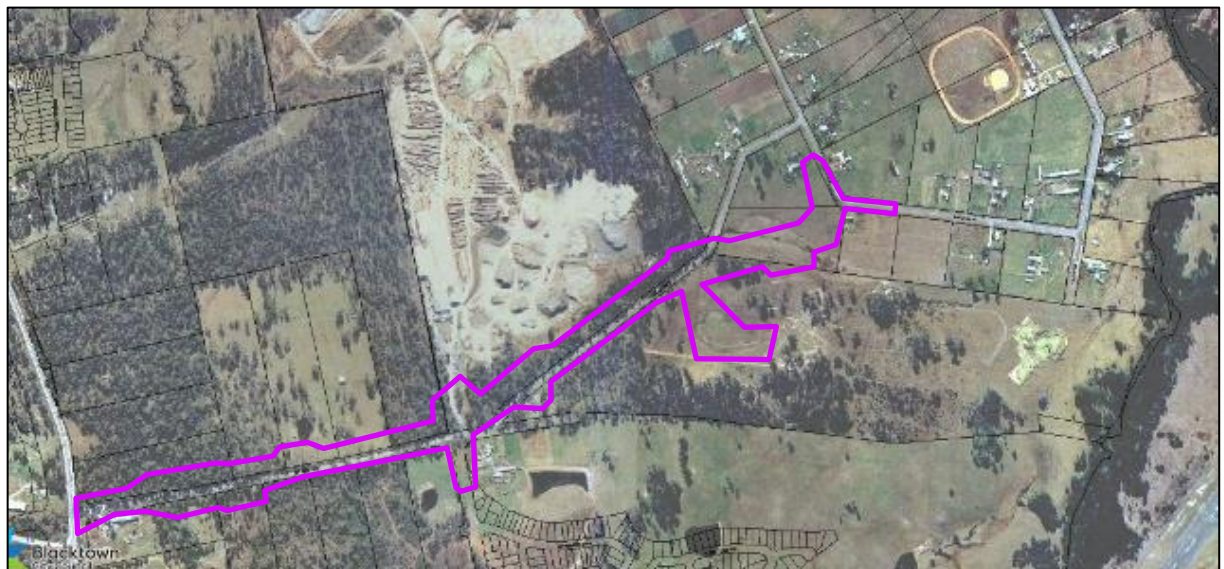


Figure 11. Aerial from 1977 showing the current study area outlined in purple (approximate). Source: Blacktown City Council.

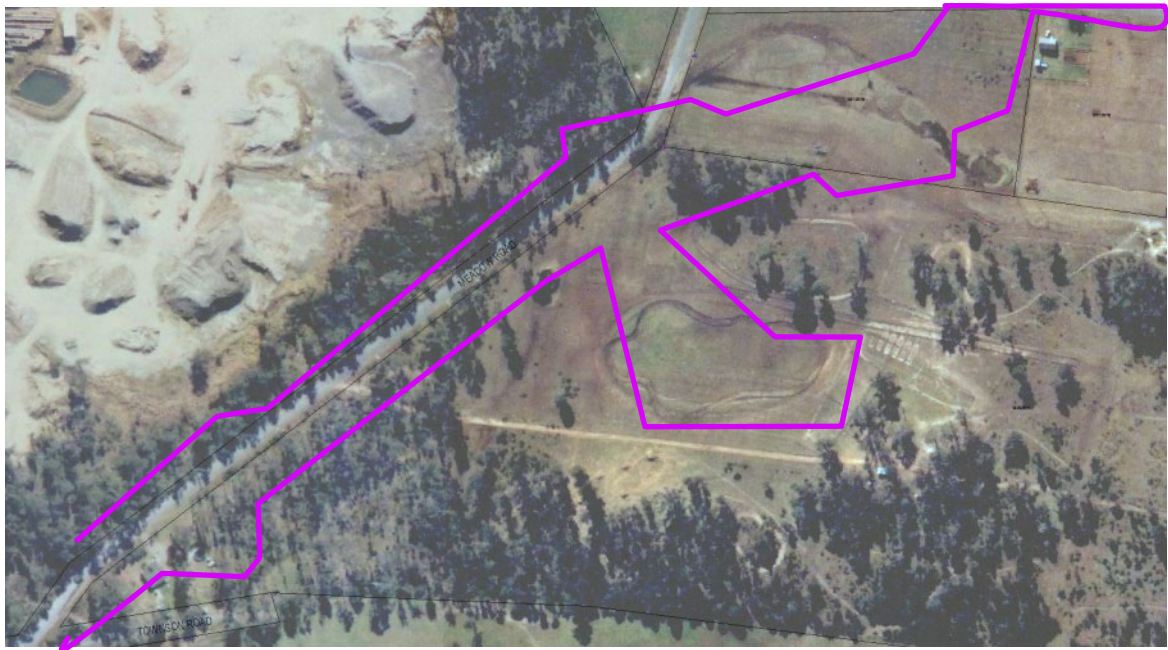


Figure 12. Detail of disturbance around mini bike club on 1977 aerial showing the current study area outlined in purple (approximate). Source: Blacktown City Council.

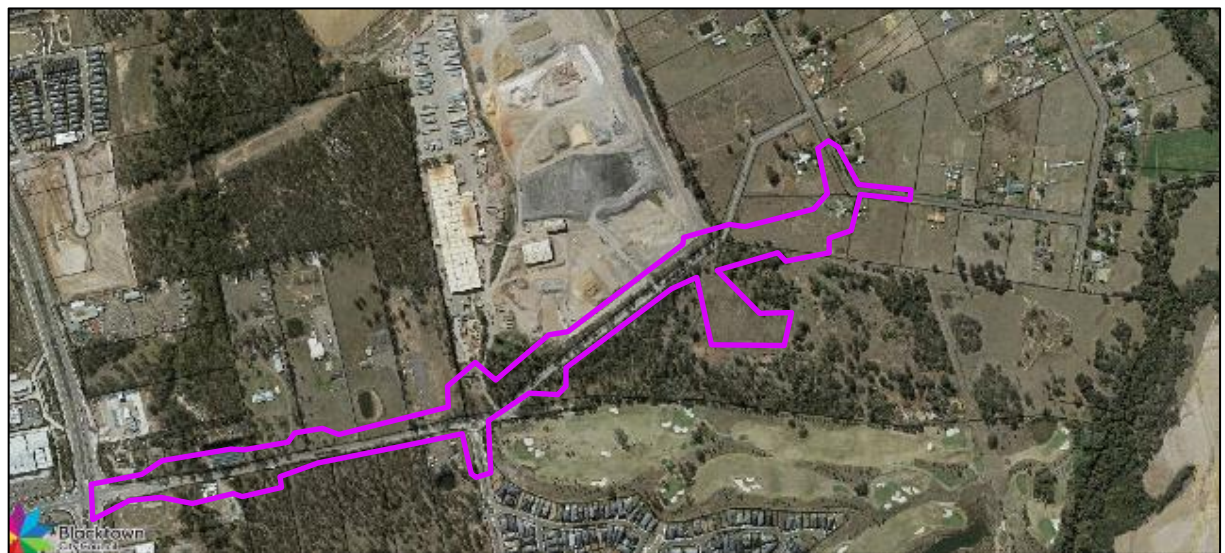


Figure 13. Aerial from 2018 showing the current study area outlined in purple (approximate). Source: Blacktown City Council.

3.3 Previous non-Aboriginal heritage assessments within the study area

The suburb of Schofields and adjacent suburbs Marsden Park and Colebee are located within Sydney's North West Growth Centre. In 2005 the NSW Government established the North West and South West Growth Centres to plan Sydney's growth on its urban edge. It is proposed that over the next 25-30 years, the North West Growth Centre will contain housing for 200,000 people with the construction of 70,000 new dwellings and the creation of associated employment lands, schools, shops, bushland, parks and new or upgraded infrastructure. The North West Growth Centre is approximately 10,000 hectares in size and includes parts of The Hills, Blacktown and Hawkesbury local government areas. It is divided into 16 precincts that are being progressively released and rezoned for sustainable urban development. The study area is located across three precincts: the westernmost part of the study area, from Richmond Road to Bells Creek, is located within the Marsden Park Industrial Precinct; the area south of Townson Road from Bells Creek to Victory Road is located within the West Schofields (Townson Road) Precinct; and the area north of Townson Road from Bells Creek to the eastern study area boundary is located within the West Schofields Precinct.

Due to the rapid urbanisation and development of this area over the past two decades, there have been several heritage studies undertaken on lands within the growth centre and in the vicinity of the study area. These studies have provided a comprehensive resource for understanding both the non-Aboriginal historical and archaeological context of the study area.

Godden Mackay Logan (GML) was commissioned in 2009 to prepare a preliminary non-Indigenous heritage assessment of the Marsden Park Industrial Precinct in order to identify and describe the cultural values of the precinct. The assessed area included the portion of the current study area west of Bells Creek. The assessment included desktop review, site survey and constraints and opportunities mapping with recommendations to protect any identified heritage items or values. No significant historical heritage items were located, and overall the potential for archaeological resources to survive within the assessed area was considered to be low (GML 2009: 19). The only feature identified with a high degree of archaeological potential was the historical Richmond Road corridor where associated features and artefacts might be unearthed during any subsurface works. It was recommended that a Heritage Impact Statement be prepared to consider potential archaeological impacts.

In 2011 GML undertook a non-Aboriginal heritage assessment of the Schofields Precinct for the NSW Department of Planning (GML 2011), located to the east of the current study area on the other side of Eastern Creek. The Schofields Precinct study area was approximately 424 hectares bounded by Hebe Farm to the north, the Richmond railway line to the east, Quakers Hill Parkway to the south east, the M7 motorway to the south west, and Eastern Creek to the west. The precinct was divided into several subdivision assessment areas. The closest of these to the current study area included The Dairy and the Schofields Aerodrome (GML 2011: Figure 2.2). Several areas of archaeological potential were identified that related to different phases of historical development from the early 19th century.

The Former Dairy Farm originally made up the northern part of the former Pye farm and was later subdivided. Historical research and site inspection of the site by GML in 2011 confirmed that the remnant standing structures were in poor condition and did not possess any heritage significance. No other areas of archaeological potential were identified associated with The Dairy Farm (GML 2011: 71). A number of features within the Schofields Aerodrome assessment area were identified with particular significance to people who had past associations with the Schofields Aerodrome (social significance). The airport runways, which were intact, were early features that provided a very tangible connection with its former land use. They were prominent markers in the area and it was considered beneficial to the area if they were interpreted in a meaningful way. It was recommended that parts of the runway should be retained if possible, with the opportunity for the other parts of the runway to be incorporated in the planning of streets and open space. These conservation planning and interpretation actions would assist in the retention of associations with people who worked at the RAAF site and aerodrome.

The Pye Farm site was located within the Schofields Aerodrome assessment area (GML 2011: 72). The location of the homestead and farm represent the earliest phase of settlement in this area. It was considered that the Pye homestead archaeological site had the potential to contain subsurface cultural resources that would contribute towards our current understanding of the evolving cultural history of the local area, and to inform research into settlement in the early colonial period. It was recommended that if any development was to occur within the site of the homestead and other associated farm features, an archaeological impact assessment and research design for the complex would be required. It was also noted that if archaeological remains were found, the site should be included on the heritage schedule of the Blacktown City Council LEP as a heritage item (GML 2011: 83).

Archaeological & Heritage Management Solutions (AHMS) was commissioned in 2015 by the then Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) to undertake an Aboriginal and Historic Heritage Gap Analysis of the two remaining unreleased North West Growth Centre (NWGC) precincts: Shanes Park and West Schofields (AHMS 2015a). The subject area encompassed the current study area north of Townson Road between Bells Creek and the eastern study area boundary. There were no listed historical items identified within the assessment area. Further assessment was recommended at a number of localities across the West Schofields precinct that were identified from an 1842 plan of

the area. These included two locations in proximity to the current study area: Ivory Farm and the associated potential horse stud (partially within the current study area as indicated on Figure 4) and a potentially historic farm building mapped to the south of Townson Road (outside of the current study area).

Defence Housing Australia commissioned AHMS in 2015 to prepare a Heritage Impact Statement for the initial stage earthworks associated with residential development of the former Schofields Aerodrome (AHMS 2015b). The assessed area was located to the east of the current study area on the other side of Eastern Creek. The assessment comprised background review and site survey. Potential heritage impact was addressed in relation to two main phases of historical occupation of the area: the Pye Farm; and the later Schofields Aerodrome and subsequent occupation. The location of the Pye homestead complex was considered to be outside and immediately adjacent to the development boundary. As such, the proposed development would not directly impact on the remains of the homestead complex (AHMS 2015: 48). The cottage and the northern orchard shown in the 1842 plan were located within the proposed development footprint, in the approximate alignment of a future road extension. Stripping of the topsoil was considered likely to result in the removal of any remains associated with the cottage and the orchard. In relation to the Schofields Aerodrome phase of historical land use, three items were identified: RAAF building 259, the Airship Hangar and the Runways. It was considered that removal of the runways would comprise the removal from the area of the last substantial feature associated with the development and occupation of the Schofields Aerodrome (AHMS 2011: 49). Staging of further heritage investigation and mitigation was recommended as follows:

- Prior to commencement for the Stage 1 DA that would allow for cut/fill earthworks – Completion of archival heritage recording of the study area, as well as the Schofields Aerodrome runways; submission of excavation permit application in order to undertake archaeological excavations at the Pye Farm complex site.
- Prior to commencement of the Stage 2 development in the vicinity of the Pye homestead and orchards – Detailed survey of the Pye homestead and orchard locations; historical archaeological test excavations; test excavation analysis and reporting, and completion of an updated historical archaeological assessment; consideration of design and construction options to allow retention of significant historical archaeological remains, depending on the results of the updated assessment.
- Prior to design and construction of subsequent stages of redevelopment of the area – Detailed documentary research into the history of the study area; oral history program including interviews with descendants of the Pye family; and development of a heritage interpretation strategy.

It was considered that the archaeological remains associated with the Pye Farm complex had the potential to be of State significance in which case conservation in situ should be considered a priority (AHMS 2011: 54). Archaeological excavations and analysis was planned to allow for a revised assessment of the archaeological remains and detailed management recommendations.

During 2017 and 2018 GML completed test and salvage historical archaeological excavations to mitigate the impacts of development on the three heritage items associated with the c.1820 homestead of the Pye family: the Cottage site – a rural 19th century cottage with evidence of brickmaking; the Orchard site - a purposefully planted orchard with the potential to contain evidence of early contact between local Aboriginal people and the Pye family; and the Homestead site – ‘Wawaaraawa’, the homestead built by the Pye family in 1825 with remaining evidence of outbuildings and landscape modifications. A preliminary overview of the results prepared by GML (2018) indicates that a range of archaeological evidence was identified by the excavation program, including that associated with rural industry, early colonial lifeways, interaction between Aboriginal groups and European settlers, early modifications to the natural landscape and later military use of the site.

NBRS + Partners carried out a heritage assessment and Statement of Heritage Impact in 2012 for the proposed rezoning application of the West Schofields (Townson Road) Precinct. The assessed area encompasses the current study area south of Townson Road, from Bells Creek to Victory Road. The precinct area was found to demonstrate property divisions dating to the 19th century and had been used for grazing since that time with little further development. Dams, tracks and fencing are standard agricultural infrastructure throughout NSW and were not considered to be of cultural or historical significance. The only building that was identified during the site survey was a 1920's bungalow located at 68 Townson Road, to the south of the current study area. Assessment determined that the building was so extensively altered that it did not cross the threshold for cultural significance as a local heritage item (NBRS + Partners 2012: 28). It displayed poor integrity and had lost its original external fabric apart from its windows. It was determined that the proposed development of the area would not have an adverse heritage impact on the cultural heritage inventory of Blacktown. No mitigation measures were recommended.

Extent Heritage was engaged in 2018 to prepare a Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment of the southern part of the West Schofields Precinct in preparation for the release of the land for development. The assessment area encompasses the current study area north of Townson Road, from Bells Creek to the eastern study area boundary. No previously identified heritage items were located within or in the vicinity of the assessed area. Site survey did not identify any above ground built heritage structures that would meet the criteria for heritage listing at state or local levels. The remaining evidence of significant historical phases was therefore considered to be limited to the subsurface archaeological record and to some degree the associated cultural landscape.

In general, it was considered that the assessment area had the potential to contain archaeological relics from the early colonial phases of settlement. The potential archaeology was considered likely to be marginal elements associated with agricultural and stock breeding activities and infrastructure such as footings for workers cottages, stockyards, enclosures, access roads and artefacts dating from the second quarter of the 19th century. Any identified historical archaeology was considered likely to display a local level of significance. The later land subdivision phases of the late 19th and early 20th century were found to be reflected in the small farm lot subdivisions and pastoral and agricultural uses. This period together with World War I and World War II veteran resettlement was assessed as having limited research potential and heritage value (Extent Heritage 2018: iii).

In total, seven locations of historical archaeological potential were identified within the southern part of the West Schofields Precinct, one of which is located in proximity to the current study area, described as “the Ivory homestead and horse stud”. This area was identified as an area of potential based on the position of the structures shown on the 1842 plan. It was noted that the position was approximated to 150 metres given the inaccuracies of the 1842 plan.

The “Ivory homestead and horse stud” area was assessed as displaying archaeological research potential to inform on the early farmhouse setting and use, its occupants and their lifestyle, and horse breeding practices from the years when it was owned by son Thomas Ivory. Historical research did not identify any documentary evidence of a homestead, cottage or other residential building, suggesting that the family may not have lived on the property. The assessment noted the small size of the buildings on the 1842 plan (especially compared to the Pye’s and other local marked cottages) suggested they were caretakers huts or perhaps other farm buildings located close to the marked stock yard enclosures. Nonetheless, the area has subsequently been described as a ‘homestead’.

The assessment noted the property exhibited considerable disturbance from land clearing, the mini bike tracks and subsequent cultivation. No surface or above-ground heritage was identified across the property, with any potential heritage limited to the subsurface. It was considered that agriculture and the bike track would have substantially disturbed or removed evidence of the former buildings and enclosures. Recommendations included further archaeological investigation within the identified areas of potential to establish whether archaeological deposit was present and, if so, its nature and significance. Results could then be used to formulate an appropriate archaeological management strategy for each site based on the extent and significance of identified relics. Various interpretive avenues were also recommended, including preservation in situ, display of artefacts, signage, 3D scanning and modelling, naming of streets and places with prominent landholders and horses (Extent Heritage 2018: 83).

4 Historical heritage within the study area

4.1 Potential historical archaeological sites within the study area

Review of historical records, parish maps and plans indicates that the study area and its immediate surroundings was sparsely settled and non-intensively exploited during much of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. The potential for archaeological remains to be present within the study area is affected by a range of site formation processes and land use practices that might have destroyed them. Potential archaeological remains and their likelihood of survival within the study area are given below and shown in Table 1.

Evidence of agricultural/pastoral improvements and/or activities

Potential archaeological relics would include fence lines, dam building, ploughing and soil deposits indicating cultivated areas, such as orcharding and archaeo-botanical remains. Archaeological relics that would consist of seed remains and evidence of historical ploughing would be ephemeral in nature within very shallow soil profiles. As such, they would be highly affected by later farming and other land use activities, as well as natural processes including erosion and flooding. Some small potential for older fence lines and plant seeds is possible within areas that have undergone minimal ground disturbance since the early 20th century. Given that the study area primarily follows the existing road corridors, archaeological potential for such remains is low.

Evidence of early roads, paths, and foot tracks

Potential archaeological relics include dirt or gravel surfaces, road base and associated side drains and cuts into natural ground. The 1842 plan indicates that small roads with alignments roughly analogous to the present day positions of Townson Road and Meadow Road were present by this time. These were likely of dirt or simple gravel and not highly formalised. It is considered unlikely that any substantial remains of these former roads and paths are still present within the study area. The modern alignments and easements of Townson Road and Meadow Road have generally been disturbed by road construction, drainage works and infrastructure, which has involved both excavation and introduction of fill to level out the area. These activities are likely to have disturbed any subsurface deposits associated with previous alignments, hence archaeological potential for these items is low.

Ivory Farm

The study area intersects the Ivory property as shown on the 1842 plan, close to two apparent buildings/structures and a series of what appear to be fenced stock enclosures. These items have been variously referred to as the Ivory homestead, Ivory farm, Ivory horse stud or similar. Parts of the Ivory farm as shown on the 1842 plan (Figure 8) are located within the study area. The two structures to the south of Meadow Road were most likely of simple construction, built from timber slabs. No surface remains or indications of subsurface deposit are evident or have been recorded during previous heritage assessments. This Lot has been through significant disturbance due to cultivation, excavation and the installation of BMX tracks/jumps and motorbike tracks during its time as the Blacktown mini bike club. There is low potential for subsurface features such as the buildings, wall foundations, postholes, cess-pits, rubbish pits and dumps, wells and isolated artefacts still to be present in the area. Evidence of the former stock enclosures may include subsurface postholes.

Evidence of subdivision of land in the late 19th century within the study area

The majority of the study area was subdivided in the late 19th century. The western extent of Townson Road follows the original boundary line between the grants of William Burbridge and Richard Alcorn. The eastern extent of the study area incorporates the boundary between the Ivory grants and that of William Batman, and later Joseph Pye. Archaeological evidence for such land division may include fencelines and evidence of land clearing or other activities which are evident up to the property boundary, however the potential for such items is considered to be low based on the development of the road corridors along the former grant boundaries, which would have caused substantial disturbance.

Table 1. Potential archaeological remains and likelihood of survival and presence within the study area

Potential archaeological sites or items	Association with land use of the study area	Processes affecting survival	Likelihood of survival
Fence lines, dam building, ploughing and soil deposits indicating cultivated areas, such as orcharding and archaeo-botanical remains.	Evidence of agricultural/pastoral improvements and/or activities Evidence of subdivision of land	Later agricultural processes such as ploughing, additional land clearing and subdivision and subsequent development of the site, road construction	Minimal
Dirt or gravel surfaces, roadbase and associated side drains and cuts into natural ground.	Evidence of early roads, paths, and foot tracks	Later land use including agriculture, residential development and construction of modern road.	Minimal
Wall foundations, postholes, services, cess-pits, rubbish pits and dumps, wells, cisterns and isolated artefacts	Ivory Farm	Vegetation clearance, agriculture, installation of BMX motorbike tracks, earthworks	Low

4.2 Site inspection

Site inspection of the study area was undertaken on 14 October 2019 by Ana Jakovljevic of KNC and again by Dr Matthew Kelleher on 4 December 2019 following a modification to the study area. The site inspections were undertaken on foot and covered the entirety of the study area. Particular attention was paid to the area previously identified as displaying archaeological potential associated with the “Ivory farmstead and horse stud” in Lot 3 DP 232574.

Inspection commenced in the western part of the study area at Richmond Road and proceeded east to Bells Creek. The existing road corridor was found to be highly modified, with no historical heritage items or areas of archaeological potential identified (Plate 1). Adjoining properties comprise small industrial and commercial operations including a nursery and scrapyards. The area around the Bells Creek crossing has also been modified, with drainage works evident along with dumped rubbish and concrete rubble (Plate 2). No evidence for an earlier crossing or bridge was present. This area is also affected by frequent flooding.

East of Bells Creek, the study area continues along the Townson Road corridor to Victory Road and intersects the frontages of several rural residential properties (Plate 3). These have been disturbed by vegetation clearance, landscaping, exotic plantings and drainage works including dam construction. Further to the east is a new roundabout at the Victory Road intersection, leading into recent residential development at Stonecutters Ridge to the south. To the north is the driveway and access road leading into the CSR quarry. Both are highly modified environments occupying the high ground along the ridgeline. No historical heritage items or areas of archaeological potential were identified.

The portion of the study area along Meadow Road comprises the disturbed road corridor, a small section of the adjacent CSR quarry and a strip of land along the southern side of the road (Plate 4). The proposed compound location is located in the cleared area south of the road, in the area previously assessed as displaying archaeological potential associated with the “Ivory homestead and horse stud”. The site inspection confirmed extensive and severe disturbance in this area, with no historical heritage items identified and minimal to no potential for any subsurface archaeological remains. Extensive earthworks and introduction of fill material has taken place across the western section of the property, creating a highly irregular mounded and furrowed surface across the clearing (Plate 5). No evidence for buried natural soils was identified, with small sheet erosion exposures showing bare B horizon clays with scattered buckshot gravel (Plate 6). The mounded fill and cuts may have been placed to aid or control drainage in this part of the Lot and have artificially raised the ground level to some degree. This has been compounded by ground disturbance associated with the former minibike tracks, which have included earthmoving and cut/fill activities to create ramps and jumps. To the east of the proposed compound location, the cleared area is less disturbed and at a lower elevation and is likely boggy after rain.

A gravel track runs east from Meadow Road along the former boundary between Portion 36 (‘Mrs Ivory’s’) and John Thorn’s Portion 37. This was also disturbed, with mounds of fill and dumped rubble and some areas of possible former earthmoving spoil (now vegetated). The track itself has been elevated using fill. No historical heritage items, fabric/materials or areas of potential were identified. The treed area to the south of the track (outside of the current study area) appeared to be less disturbed and was located at a higher elevation on the north-eastern slopes of the ridgeline (Plate 7). No heritage items were identified in this area but it is considered to retain some potential for subsurface archaeological remains relating to former landuse such as remnant postholes from fencing/enclosures and fragmented historical fabric or materials associated with agriculture.

To the north of the proposed compound location, the study area deviates from the existing Meadow Road corridor and runs north east to Durham Road/Jersey Road. A small area of trees adjacent to the Meadow Road corridor displayed similar disturbance to the cleared proposed compound area, with long, linear cuts and furrows separated by mounds of fill and introduced materials (Plate 8). No potential for subsurface archaeological was identified given the extensive ground disturbance. The property to the north has undergone extensive drainage works associated with a channelised minor drainage line running south east to Eastern Creek. No historical heritage items or areas of archaeological potential were identified in this part of the study area.

Overall, the site assessment found the study area to display very low to no historical heritage potential. No historical heritage items, fabric/materials or areas of subsurface archaeological potential were identified. The area associated with the “Ivory homestead and horse stud”, previously identified as displaying archaeological potential, was found to be severely disturbed within the study area. It is considered unlikely that any subsurface remains associated with the structures or enclosures present on the 1842 plan remain within the study area. No evidence of buried natural soils that could contain historical heritage material was identified and archaeological potential was assessed as minimal to nil. Some potential for subsurface remains exists in the treed area to the south of the gravel track below the proposed compound location, however this is outside of the current study area.



Plate 1. View west along Townson Road towards Richmond Road



Plate 2. Thick vegetation and disturbance around Bells Creek crossing



Plate 3. View east down Townson Road, rural residential at left and new housing development at right, western part of the study area



Plate 4. View north east down Meadow Road corridor, CSR quarry at left and 'Mrs Ivory's' at right



Plate 5. View north west to Meadow Road across cleared area showing undulating mounded surface



Plate 6. Exposed B horizon clay and gravels in disturbed cleared area south of Meadow Road



Plate 7. View south west across cleared area showing undulating mounded surface. Treed area of lower disturbance south of track in background.



Plate 8. View to east from northern Lot boundary of the Ivory property towards Durham Road/Jersey Road. Note large cut along fenceline.

4.3 Discussion

The historical archaeological potential of the study area has been determined through a combination of historical research, analysis of historical plans, maps and photographs, review of heritage listings and other historical archaeological assessments within the vicinity of the study area, as well as a site inspection.

Background information review did not identify any historical heritage items within the study area. Previous assessment for the West Schofields Precinct identified one area of archaeological potential on the former Ivory property within present-day Lot 3 DP 232574 south of Meadow Road. The identification of this area was based on the 1842 sketch plan which indicated two small structures and several apparent stock enclosures on the property. No other potential historical heritage was identified.

Historical maps, plans and aerial photography indicate that the Townson Road and Meadow Road corridors have been present in their general locations since relatively early in the region's settlement history. Surrounding properties to the west remained uncleared through the first half of the 19th century, while those in the east (the Ivory farm and the Pye property) were cleared and cultivated. The surrounding area was used for grazing purposes for the adjacent land grants. The structures and enclosures indicated within the Ivory property on the 1842 plan were likely related to these early agricultural enterprises, with the property potentially later used as a horse stud or horse grazing pasture for animals owned by son Thomas Ivory. Ivory's stables themselves were located in Surry Hills and not at the Schofields property. Potential heritage items associated with these earlier land uses are likely to comprise remnant posts or post holes associated with fencing and stock enclosures or fragmented heritage fabric/materials associated with the small structures. If present, these are likely to be of local heritage significance.

During the site inspection no non-Aboriginal historical items or areas of potential were identified. The previously identified area of archaeological potential associated with the Ivory property was found to have been subject to extensive and severe disturbance. Very low to no potential for subsurface historical archaeology was identified within the study area. To the south of the proposed compound location, some potential was identified in a treed area of higher ground adjoining the golf course. This area appeared less disturbed and was considered more likely to retain any subsurface remains relating to earlier land use. If present, these would be of local heritage significance. This area of better potential is located outside of the current study area and would not be impacted by the proposal.

The remainder of the study area displayed very low potential for non-Aboriginal historical heritage items or subsurface archaeology to be present. No heritage items, fabric/materials or areas of archaeological potential were identified during background research or the site inspection.

5 Significance Assessment

Significance assessment is the process whereby buildings, items or landscapes are assessed to determine their value or importance to the community. The significance assessment for the study area has been prepared using the criteria detailed below. These criteria have been developed by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and embody the values contained in the Burra Charter. The Burra Charter provides principles and guidelines for the conservation and management of cultural heritage places within Australia.

Based on the findings of the current assessment, the study area does not contain any identified historical heritage items or areas of historical archaeological potential. The significance assessment below has been developed based on the general landscape characteristics of the study area and its historical context.

SHR Criterion a) an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW’s cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area) (Historical significance)

The study area is associated with some of the earliest land management decisions made by the Colonial administration in relation to north-western Sydney, being located within the Prospect Hill Common set aside by Governor King in 1802. This was followed by Governor Macquarie’s decision just eight years later to begin converting government land in the area into land grants. Within the study area a number of the earliest land grants were given to five individuals, the majority of which became part of the farms belonging to the Pye family, who were well-known farmers and prominent members of early colonial society. Their homestead ‘Waawaarawaa’ on the opposite side of Eastern Creek and the farm represent the earliest phase of non-indigenous settlement and pastoral movement in the local area. Other early local landholders include the Ivory family, who cultivated their 39 acre grant bordering Eastern Creek in the early 19th century. The property later passed to Thomas Ivory, a noted racehorse breeder and trainer, who may have used it as a horse stud or pasturage for his Surry Hills stables. The study area is considered to demonstrate a general level of local historical significance, as it forms part of the pattern of early occupation and settlement of the local area in the 19th century and continued to play a part in the economy and community through to the 20th century. The study area satisfies this criterion at the local level.

SHR Criterion b) an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW’s cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area) (Associative significance)

The study area displays a low level of associative significance through its location within first the Prospect Hill Common, then the issue of land grants in 1815 and 1816 to ex-convicts such as William Bateman, John and Joseph Pye and Charles Ivory. The study area is associated with a few well-known and prominent families and individuals in 19th and early 20th century Sydney. The Pyes, although of convict descent, became prominent members of colonial society. They kept on their property the first pack of fox hounds and for many years, Sydney Hunt Club hunted over their paddocks. The Pyes also developed the land into the prosperous orchard and dairy, and were growing wheat. Leslie Walter Pye was a well-known cricketer who was born in 1871 at Waawaarawaa. James John Pye became a District Councillor of Blacktown Shire, one of the most prominent farmers who also had a herd of fine bulls on his Waawaarawaa farm during the late 19th and early 20th century. The Ivory property was at one time owned by Thomas Ivory, who was an accomplished horse breeder, jockey and trainer, and was a significant persona in 19th century Sydney. While these personages are associated with the study area through their land ownership, the study area does not retain any material evidence or associations relating to their life or works. The study area is therefore not considered to possess “strong or special association” with these individuals and thus does not satisfy this criterion at either the State or local level.

SHR Criterion c) an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of technical achievement in NSW (or in the local area) (aesthetic significance)

The historical research and site inspection of the study area and surrounding landscape indicates that the study area demonstrates some aesthetic characteristics of importance to the local area in that it is located within an area of small, semi-rural landholdings which formed the landscape character of Schofields and neighbouring suburbs for the majority of the past 100 years. The aesthetic characteristics of this landscape are rapidly disappearing as a result of the ongoing urbanisation of north western Sydney. However, the majority of the study area is located along existing road corridors and in areas of high disturbance. The study area does not satisfy this criterion at either the State or local level.

SHR Criterion d) an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons (Social significance)

No associations with particular community or cultural groups have been identified for the study area during background research or the site inspection. The study area does not satisfy this criterion at the State or local level.

SHR Criterion e) an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area) (Research potential)

On the basis of the historical research and site inspection, no heritage items with the potential to inform on NSW's cultural or natural history exist within the study area. No non-Aboriginal historical items, fabric/materials or areas of potential were identified. The previously identified area of archaeological potential associated with the Ivory property was found to have been subject to extensive and severe disturbance. Very low to no potential for subsurface historical archaeology was identified within the study area. The study area does not satisfy this criterion at either the State or local level.

SHR Criterion f) an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area) (Rarity)

On the basis of the historical research, site inspection and understanding of the ongoing urbanisation of the land within the North West growth centre, the study area and surrounding landscape represent an aspect of the cultural history of north western Sydney, and thus the local area, but this aspect is not uncommon. The study area does not satisfy this criterion at either the State or local level.

Integrity/Intactness

The study area displays a generally low level of integrity/intactness. The existing road corridors of Townson Road and Meadow Road, surrounding residential, industrial and commercial development, drainage works, landscaping, vegetation clearance and replanting and installation of services and infrastructure have combined to limit the potential for any archaeological remains relating to earlier phases of land use. The portion of the study area within the former Ivory property was found to be severely disturbed by introduction of fill, earth-moving, drainage works and use as a minibike track over many years. This area retains minimal to nil archaeological potential. One area to the south, located on higher ground adjoining the ridge, was considered to display greater potential for subsurface remains but this is outside of the study area and would not be impacted by the proposal. Overall, the study area displays a low level of integrity for historical heritage.

5.1 Statement of significance

The study area does not contain any historic archaeological items or relics of heritage significance at the local, State, or Commonwealth levels. The study area displays minimal to nil subsurface archaeological potential for historical heritage items of local significance.

More generally, the study area displays a low level of historical and associative significance due to its settlement and land use history.

6 Statement of heritage impact

The study area does not contain any historical archaeological items or relics of heritage significance at the local, State, or Commonwealth levels. The study area displays minimal to nil subsurface archaeological potential for historical heritage items of local significance.

Whilst the study area displays some general values of low local heritage significance (historical and associative), the proposed works would have a negligible impact upon those values, whose significance lies in the contribution they make as a component of the larger cultural landscape within the local area. No material evidence or heritage items relating to these values has been identified within the study area.

The proposed works would not have an impact upon any known or likely items of archaeological significance or potential.

7 Conclusion and recommendations

The historical archaeological potential of the study area has been determined through a combination of historical research, analysis of historical plans, maps and photographs, review of heritage listings and other historical archaeological assessments within the vicinity of the study area, as well as a site inspection.

There are no historical (non-Aboriginal) heritage items listed on statutory heritage registers or planning instruments (both active and repealed) within the study area. No historical heritage items, relics or sites were identified within the study area during this assessment.

Previous assessment for the West Schofields Precinct identified one area of archaeological potential on the former Ivory property within present-day Lot 3 DP 232574 south of Meadow Road. This area is described in the draft Schedule 9 (West Schofields) amendment to the BCC Growth Centre Precincts DCP 2018 as “moderate potential to contain archaeological heritage”, however this is not a statutorily listed item. Further assessment for the current proposal determined that this portion of the study area (proposed compound location) has been subject to extensive and severe disturbance. Very low to no potential for subsurface historical archaeology was identified within the study area.

To the south of the proposed compound location, some potential was identified in a treed area of higher ground adjoining the golf course. This area appeared less disturbed and was considered more likely to retain any subsurface remains relating to earlier land use, such as remnant posts or post holes associated with fencing and stock enclosures or fragmented heritage fabric/materials associated with small agricultural structures. If present, these would be of local heritage significance. This area of better potential is located outside of the current study area and would not be impacted by the proposal.

The remainder of the study area displayed very low potential for non-Aboriginal historical heritage items or subsurface archaeology to be present. No heritage items, fabric/materials or areas of archaeological potential were identified during background research or the site inspection. Parts of the study area retain a low level of local heritage significance due to their contribution to the historical and increasingly rare semi-rural character of the local landscape, and association with property owned by prominent colonial personages.

The rapid urbanisation of Schofields and surrounding suburbs now represents another phase of the evolution of the landscape of north western Sydney. The low level of local heritage significance ascribed to the general landscape values of the study area does not preclude the construction and installation of the Stage 1 proposal as it would have a negligible impact on the identified low significance heritage values. The existing road corridors of Meadow Road and Townson Road would be retained with no change in land use.

There are therefore no constraints to the Stage 1 proposal on non-Aboriginal heritage grounds and the works may proceed with caution.

Should any items be located during construction of the proposed infrastructure that meet or have the potential to meet the definition of relics under the NSW *Heritage Act 1977*, the Roads and Maritime *Standard Management Procedure – Unexpected Heritage Items* (Roads and Maritime 2015) should be employed.

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