



GUUNEDAH MAIZE MILL (FORMERLY BRUNTON'S FLOUR MILL), GUNNEDAH.

HISTORIC HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

GUNNEDAH SECOND ROAD OVER RAIL BRIDGE GUNNEDAH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

MAY 2013

**Report Prepared by
OzArk Environmental & Heritage Management Pty Ltd
for Kellogg Brown & Root Pty Ltd
on behalf of the
Roads and Maritime Services Grafton**



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OzArk Environmental Heritage & Management (OzArk) has been commissioned by Kellogg Brown & Root Pty Ltd (KBR; the Client) on behalf of the NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS; the Proponent) to undertake a historic heritage assessment of the proposed Study Area for the second road over rail bridge rail in the township of Gunnedah. The Proponent has developed a series of concept options for the construction of this bridge in Gunnedah, required in order to offset the impact of increased railway traffic upon residents, which has resulted from increased coal mining in the Gunnedah basin.

Route concept options being considered are all in relatively close proximity to a historic flour mill, Gunnedah Maize Mill (formerly Brunton's Flour Mill), which is listed as a heritage item on the Gunnedah Local Environmental Plan, 2012. In 2012 RMS engaged NSW Public Works (DPWS) to undertake a heritage assessment of the mill to inform the development of concept options for the new bridge (DPWS 2012). The DPWS assessment provides detailed evaluation of the former Brunton's Flour Mill and is a valuable resource for the investigation of this heritage place. The current document does not seek to supplant the DPWS assessment, but rather to expand upon aspects of the mill site that remained previously unassessed.

Gunnedah Maize Mill (formerly Brunton's Flour Mill) and grounds presents as the only heritage place within the Study Area. Two (2) additional features of the mill precinct; the interior of the mill building, and a brick spoon drain identified within the mill grounds, were assessed as part of the current assessment. These comprise additional features/aspects of the mill that were not addressed in the 2012 DPWS assessment.

Based on accumulated knowledge from the DPWS 2012 assessment and the recent site visit (April 2013) and in reference to the location of the closest proposed route options, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- There is no archaeological potential for the survival of structural remains or cultural deposits relating to the former mill along the western corner of the site.
- The newly identified drain feature has been assessed as having no heritage significance based on its date and not being part of original mill complex.
- Consequently, a section 140 excavation permit application to the Heritage Council will not be required to impact this area for any of the options.
- Any option, however, to develop a rail over bridge in proximity to the mill site will impact on significant views to the heritage item and therefore the preferred option should consider retaining screening trees and open space to the south / west of the mill, avoid hard edges and provide sympathetic landscaping (as recommended in DPWS 2012).

- The preferred option should aim to conserve the heritage values of the mill by retaining as much of the historic curtilage as possible and considering the bulk and footprint of the proposed structure.
- Consultation with Gunnedah Council is required if impacts are identified to an LEP listed item. Once the preferred option is finalised a Statement of Heritage Impact (SoHI) will be required for submission to council.

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1 INTRODUCTION

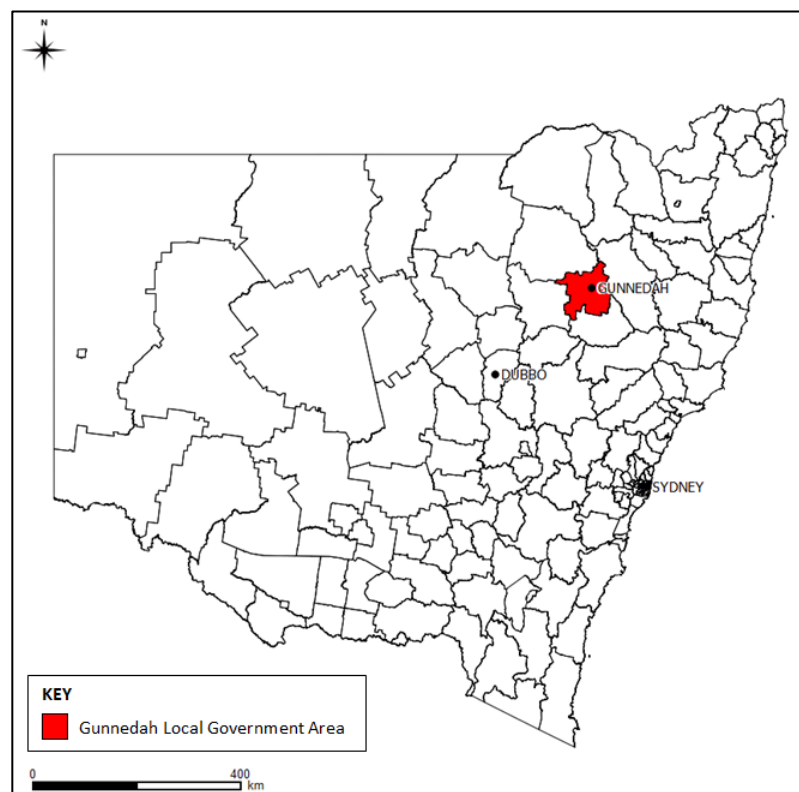
1.1 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL

OzArk Environmental Heritage & Management (OzArk) has been commissioned by Kellogg Brown & Root Pty Ltd (KBR; the Client) on behalf of the NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS; the Proponent) to undertake a historic heritage assessment of the proposed Study Area for the second road over rail bridge in the township of Gunnedah, as shown in **Figures 1-1** and **1-2**. The Proponent has developed a series of concept options for the construction of this bridge, required in order to offset the impact of increased railway traffic upon residents, which has resulted from increased coal mining in the Gunnedah basin.

1.2 BACKGROUND

Concept options are in close proximity to a historic flour mill, the Gunnedah Maize Mill (formerly Brunton's Flour Mill), which is listed as a heritage item on the Gunnedah Local Environmental Plan, 2012. In 2012 RMS engaged NSW Public Works (DPWS) to undertake a heritage assessment of the mill to inform the development of concept options for the new bridge (DPWS 2012). The DPWS assessment is a comprehensive evaluation of the former Brunton's Flour Mill and is a valuable resource for the investigation of this heritage place. The current document does not seek to supplant the DPWS assessment, but rather to expand upon aspects of the mill that were previously unassessed. Sections of the DPWS heritage assessment report will be referenced in the current report where required.

Figure 1-1: Location Map: NSW Context.



1.3 PROPOSED WORKS

Increased coal mining activities in the Gunnedah basin has resulted in an increase to rail traffic through Gunnedah. The current rail route utilises the level crossing at New Street (**Figure 1-3**), resulting in considerable traffic congestion for motorists from residential areas on the southern side of the railway seeking to access the CBD to the north, as level crossings are closed for train passage more frequently. The current proposal involves the development of a series of concept options for the construction of a second road over rail bridge in the vicinity of the existing New Street railway level crossing in order to offset the impact of this increased railway traffic upon residents.

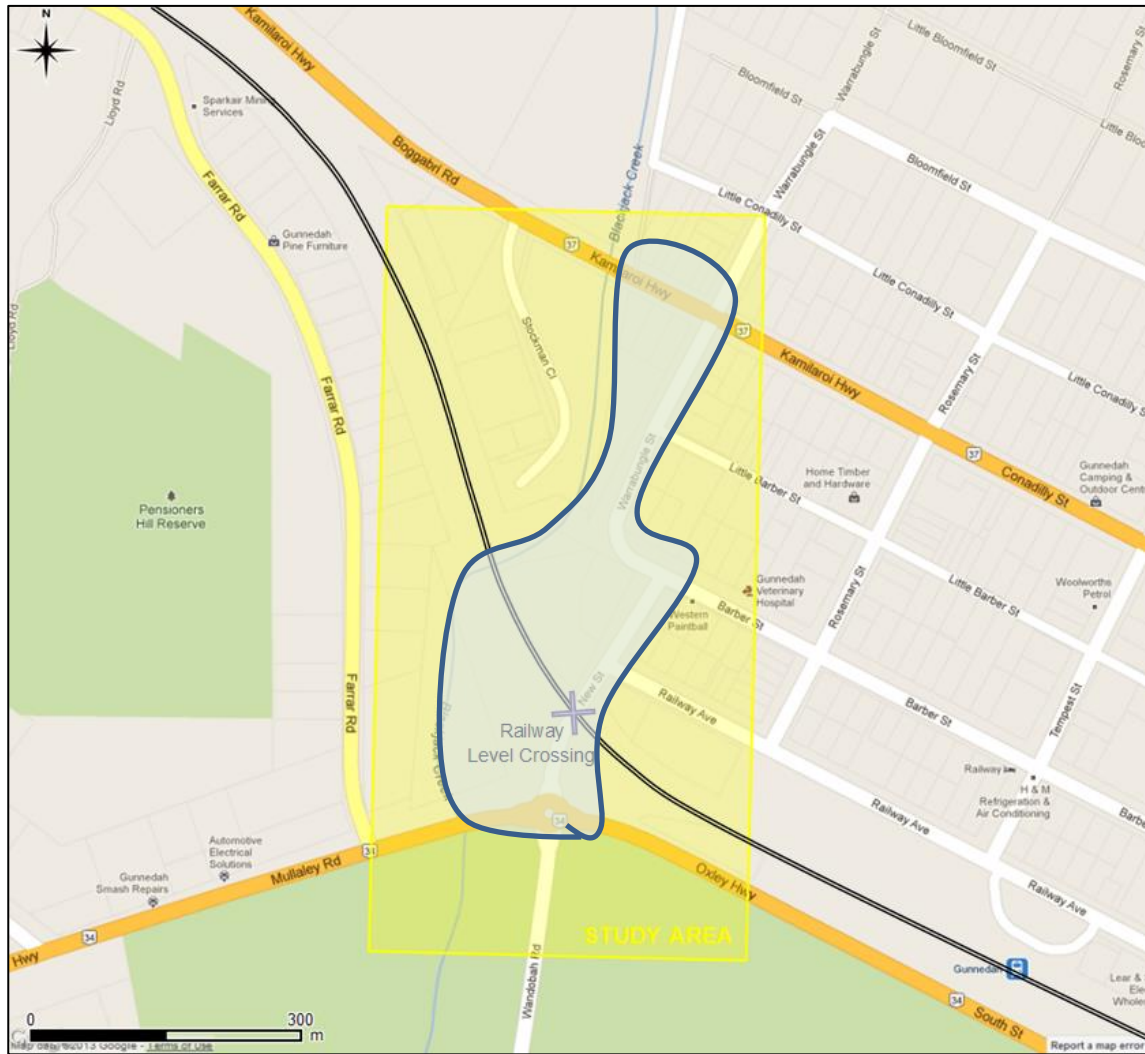
Figure 1-2: Location Map: Gunnedah Township and the Study Area.



1.4 LOCATION

Gunnedah is located in northern NSW, 70 kilometres west northwest of Tamworth. The Study Area covers approximately 45.4 hectares, incorporating residential, park, and council lands. The Study Area is dominated by the extant railway line, Blackjack Creek and the heritage listed building, the former Brunton's Flour Mill.

Figure 1-3: Location Map: Study Area (Yellow); Assessed Area (Blue).



2 THE PROJECT

2.1 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

The purpose of the current assessment is to identify and assess historic heritage constraints relevant to the proposed options.

The objectives of the current study are to:

Objective One: Identify and record historical heritage features and items within the Study Area and to investigate further the former Brunton's Flour Mill.

Objective Two: Assess the significance of any identified historical heritage features.

Objective Three: Assess the likely impacts to historical heritage features from the proposed route options and recommend possible management strategies that can be used as decision-making support for route option selection.

2.2 DATE OF HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

The fieldwork component of this assessment was undertaken by OzArk EHM from the 12th to 13th March 2013.

2.3 OZARK EHM INVOLVEMENT

2.3.1 Field Assessment

The fieldwork component of the current project was undertaken by:

- Fieldwork Director: Dr Jodie Benton (BA Hons, PhD [University of Sydney]).

2.3.2 Reporting

The reporting component of the current project was undertaken by:

- Report Author: Morgan Wilcox (BArch Hons [La Trobe University]); and
- Contributor: Karyn McLeod (BA Arch Hons [University of Sydney], MA Cultural Heritage [Deakin University]); and
- Reviewer: Dr Jodie Benton.

3 LANDSCAPE CONTEXT

3.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

The Study Area is situated within the Namoi Catchment Management Authority (CMA), specifically within the Liverpool Plains (Part B) subregion. This landscape unit is characterised by undulating hills and sloping plains with alluvial channels and floodplains (Mitchell 2002: 9). The Study Area is intersected by Blackjack Creek, an ephemeral creek with intermittent flows mainly from urban stormwater.

3.1.1 Gunnedah Maize Mill (formerly Brunton's Flour Mill)

The site of the mill is roughly triangular in shape, bounded by New Street to the east and the rail line to the south and west. The land is generally flat but slopes gently toward the direction of the creek in north west. The site contains a three story brick mill building, a six chamber cement silo and a modern single story office / storage building fronting New Street. A chain link fence surrounds the entire property.

3.2 LAND-USE HISTORY

The majority of the Study Area has been heavily impacted by dispersed urban development, including roads, rail and flood protection; agricultural activities and vegetation clearing. The Study Area is predominantly covered by exotic grasses / weeds that are regularly mown. Natural drainage patterns within the Study Area and elsewhere on surrounding land have been previously modified through the installation of levee banks, contour/diversion banks, sediment retention structures and channels, in addition to the dredging of the creek.

4 HISTORIC HERITAGE ASSESSMENT: BACKGROUND

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Gunnedah is a small township located on the Namoi River. It has a local population of 7,888 (2011 census). Being close to water and the associated abundance of natural resources, made this area ideal for Aboriginal occupation, and later drew European settlers into the area.

4.2 HISTORIC SETTLEMENT IN THE REGION

For a detailed historic background, please refer to the comprehensive heritage assessment of the former Brunton's Flour Mill (DPWS 2012). This detail will not be repeated here, although the following paragraphs presents a brief summation of historic settlement within the area.

European settlement of the area began with the explorations of Surveyor-General John Oxley in 1818, closely followed by Alan Cunningham in 1825 and Thomas Mitchell in 1831 (Atchison 1977: 138-139).

The site of Gunnedah was initially utilised as a natural ford for crossing of the Namoi river, with settlement in the area beginning in the late 1830s (UpperHunter 2013). Two conflicting accounts are provided for the first known station in the area, with John Johnston noted having establishing "Bulomin Run" in the late 1830s, and James Hall as starting the first local station, "Gunnedah Station" in 1848 (Millis 1980; UpperHunter 2013). A survey of the town site was carried out in 1854, with the first land sales taking place in 1857, and by the mid 1860's the population was recorded as being about 300 (UpperHunter 2013).

Wheat and maize cultivation, alongside grazing, developed into major industries in the area by 1860 (Millis 1980). However it was the discovery of large coal deposits on Gunnedah's Black Jack Hill in 1877 which contributed most greatly to the initial development and expansion of the town, with in excess of 6,000 tons of coal raised by 1891. The railway arrived in Gunnedah in 1879 and the town subsequently became the commercial centre of the northwest, becoming a municipality in 1885 with a growing population of 1,000 (UpperHunter 2013).

The Gunnedah Shire is currently experiencing a renaissance of their economy with the resurrection of the mining industry, and the current heritage assessment is related to this, with the Proponent seeking to develop a series of concept options for the construction of a second road over rail bridge in order to offset the impact of more frequent rail traffic upon residents (Lewis 2005; NSW Minerals 2013).

4.3 LOCAL CONTEXT

As can be seen in **Table 4-1**, the only heritage place within the current Study Area is the former Gunnedah Maize Mill (formerly Brunton's Flour Mill), a historic flour mill listed as a heritage item in the Gunnedah Local Environmental Plan, 2012. The DPWS 2012 assessment of Brunton's

Flour Mill is a comprehensive resource for the investigation of this heritage site. The current document will not repeat the historical context provided in DPWS 2012, but offers a brief summary for quick reference.

The Gunnedah Flour Mill was the first flour mill to operate in Gunnedah, opening in January 1904 on land adjacent to the railway line in the southwest corner of town (the site of the current Gunnedah Maize Mill). The land had previously been set aside for a cattle sale yard and was undeveloped. The first mill was registered as *WH Short and Co*, also known as the Excelsior Mill. The company collapsed during the first World War due to unfulfilled overseas sales commitments and the mill was closed in 1912, subsequent to the suicide of owner, W.H. Short.

In 1915 the premises were acquired by Brunton and Company who constructed the current three-storey brick mill building, operating under the name of the Gunnedah Flour Milling Company. A year later in 1916 a fire at Brunton's Mill destroyed a considerable amount of produce, however much of the complex was saved. Historical records are unclear as to whether it was at this time that the previous Excelsior Mill was demolished. The 110ft silos adjoining Brunton's Flour Mill were constructed in 1946.

Up until the mid-1950s Brunton's Flour Mill enjoyed a booming wheat industry in the Gunnedah district, however by 1954, following the rationalisation of the wheat industry, the mill was considered uneconomic due to a decline in overseas markets for flour and a suggested failure on behalf of Brunton and Co to adapt to a changing market. As a result, the property was sold to Fielder and Company in 1960, who operated the mill as a grain holding facility until 1972, when they too sold the site.

The property remained largely idle until it was acquired and redeveloped as the Gunnedah Maize Mill by Dangerfield Holdings in 2000. The Gunnedah Mill is the only remaining mill from the Brunton's Flour Milling empire.

Table 4-1: Desktop-Database Search Results.

Name of database searched	Date of search	Type of search	Comment
Australian Heritage Database http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/ahdb/	05.04.2013	Gunnedah NSW	No places on the search are within the Study Area
NSW Heritage Office State Heritage Register and State Heritage Inventory http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/	05.04.2013	Gunnedah LGA	One place (Meggitt Ltd Flour Mill) is within the Study Area.
Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPC) Protected Matters (EPBC Act) Database; http://www.environment.gov.au/erint/ert/epbc/index.html	05.04.2013	Gunnedah LGA	None of the Aboriginal places on the RNE occur near the Study Area.

Name of database searched	Date of search	Type of search	Comment
Local Environment Plan	05.04.2013	Gunnedah LEP of 2012	One place (Meggitt Ltd Flour Mill) listed in Schedule 5 of the LEP is within the Study Area.

4.4 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The Subject Area was examined via pedestrian survey. Close examination was given to all land surfaces and extant built features.

Thanks to the hospitality of Mr Steven Dangerfield and family, access to the mill property was enabled and an inspection was able to be completed of both the interior of the buildings and exterior within the boundary fencing.

5 RESULTS OF HISTORIC HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

Gunnedah Maize Mill (formerly Brunton's Flour Mill) and grounds presents as the only heritage place within the Study Area.

Gunnedah Maize Mill (formerly Brunton's Flour Mill)

Site Type: Historic Flour Mill and grounds

Location of Site: 3 Barber Street (Lots 1 and 2, DP 1071991), Gunnedah NSW

Description of Site: The former Brunton's Flour Mill is a historic, early 1900s, flour manufacturing and processing mill, listed as an item of local heritage in Schedule 5 of the Gunnedah Local Environment Plan (2012; Item I015). The DPWS 2012 assessment of this site provides a detailed description of the site elements. The only additional information obtained through consultation with the current owner, Stephen Dangerfield, relates to the location of the managers cottage. While the 2012 assessment places this cottage on New Street (Figure 2.13 and 3.3 DPWS 2012), Mr Dangerfield indicates that this building was in fact located close the current Warrabungle Street entrance and that it was only demolished in the more recent past, for the construction of the modern buildings on the corner of New and Barber Streets.

Two (2) additional features of the mill precinct; the interior of the mill building, and a brick spoon drain identified within the mill grounds, will be discussed below in light of new information obtained as a result of the current assessment.

Gunnedah Maize Mill - Interior

The 2012 DPWS heritage assessment did not provide comment on the interior of the mill as it was limited to a visual inspection of the site from public street frontages only (DPWS 2012: 5). Internal access to the mill was not requested at that time. During the current assessment, Mr Stephen Dangerfield, the present owner and operator of the Gunnedah Maize Mill, provided OzArk with background information including his photographic record of the upgrades done to the interior of the mill, in addition to a guided tour of the building and grounds.

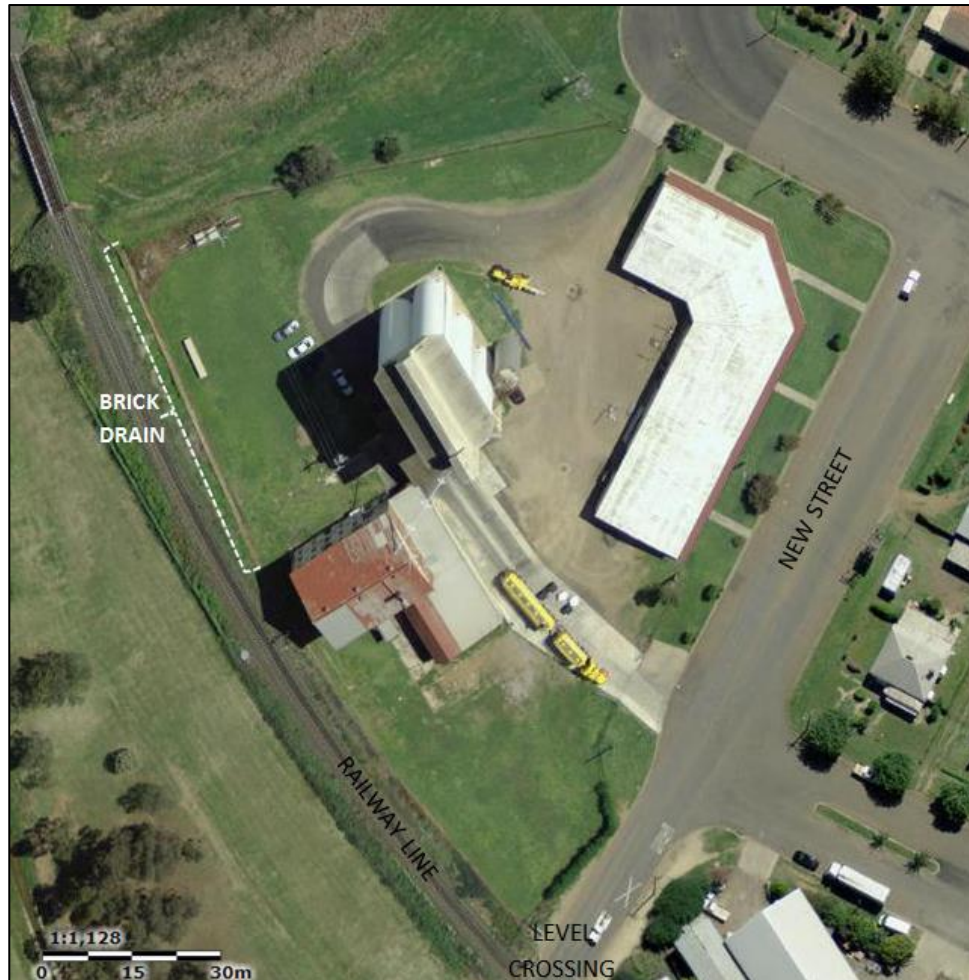
The entire interior of the main building has been renovated in a manner sympathetic to the heritage values of the site (**Plate 1**). None of the original machinery remains and some of the concrete footings for machinery have also been demolished. The machines now operating do not come from the original mill; however include older pieces of renovated equipment sourced from demolished mills both locally and abroad, including items from Young, Launceston and India.

Gunnedah Maize Mill – Brick Spoon Drain

A shallow open spoon drain was excavated by the property owner during landscape maintenance works in recent years (**Plate 2**). This feature was not identified in the initial

assessment by DPWS and was brought to OzArk's attention by Mr Dangerfield during the current field assessment. The brick drain is approximately 70 centimetres wide and 50 metres long, running parallel to the property's western boundary fenceline and extant railway line (Figure 5-1).

Figure 5-1: The former Brunton's Flour Mill Brick Drain.



The brick drain is located on land that was previously part of the railway easement which was incorporated into the land holding of the former Brunton's Mill in 1921 (DPWS 2012: 15). Prior to the construction of the rail line in 1879, the natural fall of the land on the south-western boundary of the site would have allowed water to drain into Blackjack Creek. The raised rail line adjacent to the property boundary acts like a levee in preventing water from the mill site from flowing into nearby Blackjack Creek. The brick drain appears to be a landscape feature constructed to assist drainage of water northward into the creek outside the boundary of the property, rather than an item of infrastructure specifically associated with the function of the mill. The drain is constructed of seven (7) courses of machine made bricks laid linearly to form a shallow spoon drain. It appears to consist of several different types of re-used whole and half

bricks, some with evidence of paint or plaster. Many of them are impressed with maker's marks including 'BULLI', 'TP BULLI', 'IFB' and 'CUELL MAKER'¹ (**Plates 2 B and C**).

BULLI and TP BULLI date 1901-1946 and were manufactured at Thomas Pendlebury's brick works near Woonona in the Illawarra. His products were used throughout the Commonwealth. The brickworks was merged with the Illawarra Fire Clay and Brick Company in 1946 and continued to operate under their name. IFB impressed bricks date from 1946 to 1965. In 1965 the company was taken over by Newbold General Refractories.

Prior to 1900, fire bricks, also known as silica bricks or refractory bricks, were mostly imported from Europe or America, but in the first decade of the 20th century a number of local brickworks began producing fire bricks that were transported long distances throughout NSW (Gemmel 1986: 56). Fire bricks have a high aluminium oxide and silica content, are partially vitrified, dense and have low porosity. They are heat and friction resistant and were generally used in situations where there is high mechanical, chemical or thermal stress. Fire bricks are expensive and not used for common construction purposes but primarily for the construction of incinerators, kilns, furnaces, bakery ovens and lining fireplaces.

Historical records note that in 1916 a fire destroyed some of the plant and produce at Brunton's Flour Mill (now Gunnedah Maize Mill), however the fire was contained within a fireproof portion of the building. The mill had a smut room, wheat sheds, mill office, mill cottage, chimney and weighbridge office which have been removed since the 1950s. It is likely that the bricks in the spoon drain were reused from demolished structures on site, giving the drain a construction date in the mid-late 20th century and certainly no earlier than 1946.

5.1 ASSESSMENT OF HISTORIC HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

5.1.1 Assessment of Significance—General Principles

In determining the appropriate process for significance assessment, it must be determined whether the identified items should be classified as 'archaeological'.

The assessment of heritage significance is a process of examining the various factors and values which bear upon a place, building or structure and determining what level of significance, if any, the item may have with respect to an established set of heritage criteria. Broadly speaking, these criteria are based on the four values set out in the Australia International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Burra Charter and are the methodology accepted by heritage authorities and professional consultants. These criteria are:

- historic significance;

¹ Research to date has unfortunately been unable to locate a reference to bricks impressed with the 'CUELL MAKER' maker's mark, however they are likely common bricks produced at a local, short-lived brickworks.

- aesthetic significance;
- scientific significance; and
- social significance.

The Heritage Council of NSW has defined a set of heritage significance criteria against which the heritage significance of an item may be judged. The use of standardised criteria helps achieve consistency in the assessment process and provides a basis for comparative assessment between types or classes of items.

The Heritage Council significance criteria are as follows.

- **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);
- **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);
- **Criterion (c)**—an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area);
- **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;
- **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);
- **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);
- **Criterion (g)**—an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW’s:
 - cultural or natural places; or
 - cultural or natural environments; or

A class of the local area’s:

 - cultural or natural places; or
 - cultural or natural environments.

In many cases, items or places will be significant under only one or two of these criteria. Structures or items that do not function in their original context are much less able to demonstrate the qualities for which they were originally designed and this thereby reduces their heritage significance.

5.1.2 Assessment of Significance of Historic Items

The brick drain does not fulfil any of the Heritage Council significance criteria listed above.

The shallow brick drain is not considered a heritage item due to its late construction and its assembly from demolition material. The drain is unlikely to contribute substantially to knowledge about the site and does not contribute to the appreciation of the heritage values of the mill. While the item is located within the historic curtilage of the mill, it does not relate to the functioning of the mill and was not constructed as infrastructure associated with the mill. The drain's function appears to relate to channelling water into Blackjack Creek on the north western boundary of the site and is considered a relatively recent landscaping item.

Subsequent to inspection of the interior of the mill, Gunnedah Maize Mill (formerly Brunton's Flour Mill) has been assessed as not meeting State Heritage listing criteria, a question raised in the 2012 DPWS assessment (DPWS 2012: 49).

5.2 LIKELY IMPACTS TO HISTORIC HERITAGE FROM THE PROPOSAL

Route options in relative close proximity to the mill are the primary options being considered by the RMS at this stage. Some of these options link Warrabungle Street to the north of the mill site with View Street and Oxley Highway in the south. Some of these options curve around the west of the mill, crossing the train line and potentially cutting the northwest corner of the mill property. Historical documentation of the development of the site demonstrates that there is no potential for the survival of historic archaeological deposits from any phase in this northwestern part of the mill site.

Construction of the second road over rail bridge to the west of the mill has the potential to impact the brick drain. It is possible that several metres of the northern end of the drain would need to be removed, depending upon the option chosen. Removal of a small portion of the drain will not impact on the historical values of the mill site.

The mill is a landmark in the town of Gunnedah. Views to the mill have changed little over time. Route options in its' vicinity may impact significant views of the mill and its setting as identified in the DPWS (2012) report.

6 MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION: HISTORIC HERITAGE

6.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF HISTORIC SITES

Appropriate management of heritage items is primarily determined on the basis of their assessed significance as well as the likely impacts of the proposed development.

6.2 MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION OF RECORDED HISTORIC SITES

As the brick drain has no heritage value, partial removal of the brick drain will not require specific mitigative measures. However, consideration should be given to archival photography of the drain prior to its removal and reuse of the bricks elsewhere on site could be contemplated.

Adequate drainage measures should be put in place to facilitate water management on the site.

Options should consider the least impact to the visual connection between the mill and its setting including the town and railway. The preferred option should seek to minimise bulk and maximise distance from the mill.

6.3 RELEVANT LEGISLATION

6.3.1 State Legislation

NSW Heritage Act 1977

This Act established the Heritage Council of NSW. The Heritage Council's role is to advise the government on the protection of heritage assets, make listing recommendations to the Minister in relation to the State Heritage Register, and assess/approve/decline proposals involving modification to heritage items or places listed on the Register.

Most proposals involving modification or disturbance are assessed under Section 60 or Section 139 of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977*. Developments classified as Major Projects or Critical infrastructure are assessed under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Automatic protection is afforded to 'relics', defined as 'any deposit or material evidence relating to the settlement of the area that comprised New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and which holds State or Local significance' (note: formerly the Act protected any 'relic' that was more than 50 years old. Now the age determination has been dropped from the Act and relics are protected according to their heritage significance assessment rather than purely on their age). Excavation of land on which it is known or where there is reasonable cause to suspect that 'relics' will be exposed, moved, destroyed, discovered or damaged is prohibited unless ordered under an excavation permit.

SEPP (infrastructure) 2007 does apply to the current assessment, Part 2, Division 1, clause 14, whereby consultation is required with the local council should any impacts be likely to items of local heritage significance.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)

This Act established requirements relating to land use and planning. The three areas that regulate development activity are:

- Part 4: Development requiring consent, including State Significant Development.
- Part 5: Development permissible without consent.
- Part 5:1: Development determined by an EPI or development under Part 5 requiring an EIS (significant environmental impact).

6.3.2 Commonwealth Legislation

Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Amendments in 2003 established the National Heritage List and the Commonwealth Heritage List, both administered by the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA), now the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC). Ministerial approval is required for proposals involving significant impacts to National/Commonwealth heritage places. Additionally, the Australian Heritage Council maintains the Register of the National Estate (RNE).

Australian Heritage Council Act 2003

This Act established the Australian Heritage Council as an independent advisory body regarding National/Commonwealth heritage places. The Council conducts assessments of listing nominations, advises the Minister for Environment and Heritage, maintains the RNE, and promotes the assessment and conservation of heritage items.

7 MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Gunnedah Maize Mill (formerly Brunton's Flour Mill) and grounds presents as the only heritage place within the Study Area. Two (2) additional features of the mill precinct; the interior of the mill building, and a brick spoon drain identified within the mill grounds, were assessed as part of the current assessment, building on the DPWS 2012 heritage assessment.

Based on accumulated knowledge from the DPWS 2012 assessment and the recent site visit (April 2013) and in reference to the location of the closest proposed route options, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- There is no archaeological potential for the survival of structural remains or cultural deposits relating to the former mill along the western corner of the site.
- The newly identified drain feature has been assessed as having no heritage significance based on its date and not being part of original mill complex.
- Consequently, a section 140 excavation permit application to the Heritage Council will not be required to impact this area for any of the options.
- Any option, however, to develop a rail over bridge in proximity to the mill site will impact on significant views to the heritage item and therefore the preferred option should consider retaining screening trees and open space to the south / west of the mill, avoid hard edges and provide sympathetic landscaping (as recommended in DPWS 2012).
- The preferred option should aim to conserve the heritage values of the mill by retaining as much of the historic curtilage as possible and considering the bulk and footprint of the proposed structure.
- Consultation with Gunnedah Council is required if impacts are identified to an LEP listed item. Once the preferred option is finalised a Statement of Heritage Impact (SoHI) will be required for submission to council.

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PLATES

Plate 1: Interior of Gunnedah Maize Mill (Formerly Brunton's Flour Mill). Courtesy of Mr Stephen Dangerfield.





Plate 2: Gunnedah Maize Mill (formerly Brunton's Flour Mill): Brick Spoon Drain.



