



Transport
Roads & Maritime
Services

Thompson Square Conservation Area Windsor NSW

Interpretation Plan (Stage 1)

FINAL

May 2018

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Document Control

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

In December 2015, the Austal AHMS Joint Venture (AAJV) was commissioned by NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) to prepare an Interpretation Plan of Thompson Square Conservation Area including individually listed sites, non-Aboriginal archaeology and Aboriginal archaeology. Through an analysis of the history and significance of the site, the purpose of the report is to provide a plan for interpretative concepts, devices, designs, content and installation locations within the study area, whilst primarily focusing on the project area where the opportunity for interpretation will be greatest.

The preparation of an Interpretation Plan for the study area is one of the Conditions of Consent for the Windsor Bridge Replacement Program (WBRP). This project was approved on 20 December 2013 by the NSW Minister for Planning (Application No SSI_4951). Specifically, this report fulfils Condition B1, paragraph 3 which states:

“The Applicant shall prepare and submit a detailed Interpretation Plan prior to the commencement of pre-construction and construction activities for the Thompson Square Conservation Area including individually listed sites, non-Aboriginal archaeology and Aboriginal archaeology for the approval of the Director-General. The detailed Interpretation Plan must be prepared in consultation with the OEH and include specific media design, content, location and materials, prepared in accordance with the Guidelines of the NSW Heritage Council.”¹

An Interpretation Strategy (IS) was prepared for the project in 2017 (prepared for RMS by AAJV) which analysed and introduced an overarching interpretation model to be used as part of the proposed replacement of Windsor Bridge from Macquarie Street (south) to Wilberforce Road (north). This Interpretation Plan (IP) follows on from the Interpretation Strategy.

This Interpretation Plan responded to feedback from the IS, further developing the objectives and content that was first introduced in the IS, and ready to commence the implementation process. It was considered important that this Interpretation Plan address the need for improvement in the integration of cultural heritage into the public space. In addition, the style, design and content of interpretive devices, and the opportunities that they represent, are critical elements in the visitor experience. Research and development on location, style, and type of device was undertaken in collaboration with the development of the Urban Design and Landscape Plan (UDLP) to provide a quality response to the Conditions of Consent for the Windsor Bridge Replacement Program (WBRP) as approved on 20 December 2013.

1.2 Interpretation

In its simplest terms, interpretation is the art of telling a good story. It is a complex and intertwined construct that conveys meaning, significance, history, perspective and cultural heritage to an audience.

The NSW Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH) states that:

“The heritage of New South Wales is identified and protected as a means of securing and maintaining landscape, places and objects valued as part of Australian culture and history...Heritage Interpretation is a means of sharing Australian history and culture with other communities, new citizens, visitors, and

¹ NSW Heritage Office, Interpreting Heritage Places and Items Guidelines, 2005, page 4.

people overseas. It is also a means of passing on the knowledge of Australian history, culture and values to new generations.”

Good interpretation is based on a detailed knowledge of the needs and desires of the many and varied audiences, a solid understanding of the site’s significance and history, and sound communication skills.

Professor Sam Ham of the University of Idaho, is recognised as the father of Thematic Interpretation, defines interpretation as,

“...the meaning making that will produce not simply scores of property entertained “fact-knowers” who leave tourism dollars in their wake, but rather it will instil in tourists and local people alike a newfound empathy and reverence for their own natural and cultural place in the universe, their roots. It will make them care.”²

Therefore, the challenge of interpretation is to provide fascinating and factual information that conveys compelling individual and community stories of human achievements, endeavours and indeed adversity. Section 6 of this report further investigates the purpose and reasoning around the interpretation proposed for Thompson Square Conservation Area in line with the preceding basis of the role of interpretation.

1.3 Methodology

This IP responds to the requirement for a detailed IP as set out by the NSW Minister for Planning in the Conditions of Consent (Condition B1) for the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project, and is a more detailed, developed response to the Thompson Square Interpretation Strategy (IS) prepared by AAJV (September 2016). While the IS set out the basic interpretation principles, considers the interpretative potential of the site and determines the key interpretive goals and outcomes for future interpretation, the IP gives further, detailed advice on the direction and implementation of the Interpretation. The IP has been prepared in accordance with the NSW Heritage Office *Interpreting Heritage Places and Items Guidelines* (August 2005).

The IS was submitted to the NSW Heritage Division, OEH, who play an advisory role for this project, and therefore are not an approvals authority with the responsibility to approve or endorse the IS, or this IP. OEH reviewed and concurred with the approaches, objectives, and recommendations of the IS in October 2016. OEH will also be consulted during preparation of the IP (Stage 2) as per Condition B1.

This report has also been prepared through the critical reading and review of a wide variety of background documentation. Of note, the plan has utilised the detailed history and site analysis provided in the Thompson Square Strategic Conservation Management Plan (SCMP) prepared by AAJV (Final, January 2018). Additionally, the Urban Design and Landscape Plan (September 2017) has also been referenced after collaboration and discussions with the urban landscape designers, Spackman Mossop Michaels. The impressions and understandings that have been arrived at during this research have been considered and extensive consultation with stakeholders to ensure the approach to planning interpretation considers the known and potential visitor market, heritage values of the study area and quality of design.

This report has been prepared by a professional, multidisciplinary team with a wide range of experience in heritage sites, historical documentation, archaeology, and interpretation planning and implementation. In developing this report, the team has worked collaboratively, focussing on integrating and relating history, heritage values, design and visitation to the process of interpretation planning.

² Ham, Sam H., *Meaning Making – The Premise and Promise of Interpretation*, Edinburgh, Scotland, 4 April 2002, University of Idaho, 2002

Site inspections of Thompson Square Conservation Area were conducted on several occasions throughout July-November 2016.

Key themes have been matched against the physical environment of the site and related historical events/eras.

1.4 Objectives

This Interpretation Plan has several objectives:

- To meet the Conditions of Consent for the Windsor Bridge Replacement Program, Condition B1, set out by the NSW Minister for Planning.
- To develop a range of devices and programs to address the different needs and interests of visitors;
- To improve and enhance visitor enjoyment and understanding of the cultural significance of Thompson Square Conservation Area;
- To improve and enhance visitor understanding of the area's cultural heritage and provide a mechanism for all visitors to experience and learn more about the study area;
- To identify opportunities for key community stakeholder engagement with interpretation project planning, development and presentation;
- To demonstrate best practice interpretation consistent with relevant state, national and international standards and guidelines.
- To respond to the outcomes of the community consultation relating to the interpretation needs of the site and that the community values are captured in the interpretation, which took place 28 August 2017.

1.5 Limitations

This report is subject to the following limitations:

- Salvage excavations have not yet been completed within the study area. As a result, the archaeological narrative is based on prior excavations around the study area, along with the results of test excavation and limited salvage undertaken by AAJV between 2016 and 2018. The archaeological narrative may change as new evidence comes to light.
- Hawkesbury City Council were approached for input regarding the Interpretation Strategy in 2016. However, at the time they were unable to provide feedback. RMS advised that they intended to proceed with the development of the Interpretation Plan in the absence of the Council's comments. They are considered key stakeholders in the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project and therefore will have an opportunity to comment on the project during the community consultation process of this Interpretation Plan.

1.6 Site Identification

Thompson Square Conservation Area is located within the town of Windsor, immediately south of the Hawkesbury River, approximately 55km north west of Sydney.

Thompson Square Conservation Area is one of the oldest public squares in Australia and notable for the Colonial Georgian buildings which surround it. The site is made up of George Street, Bridge Street, Old Bridge Street and The Terrace, a series of roadways which surround a small turfed reserve. Directly north is Windsor Bridge, spanning across the Hawkesbury to connect with Wilberforce Road.

Figure 1 below shows the project area (outlined in red). Figure 2 shows the existing built heritage items listed in Appendix 1 of the Conditions of Consent that are within the Thompson Square Conservation Area.

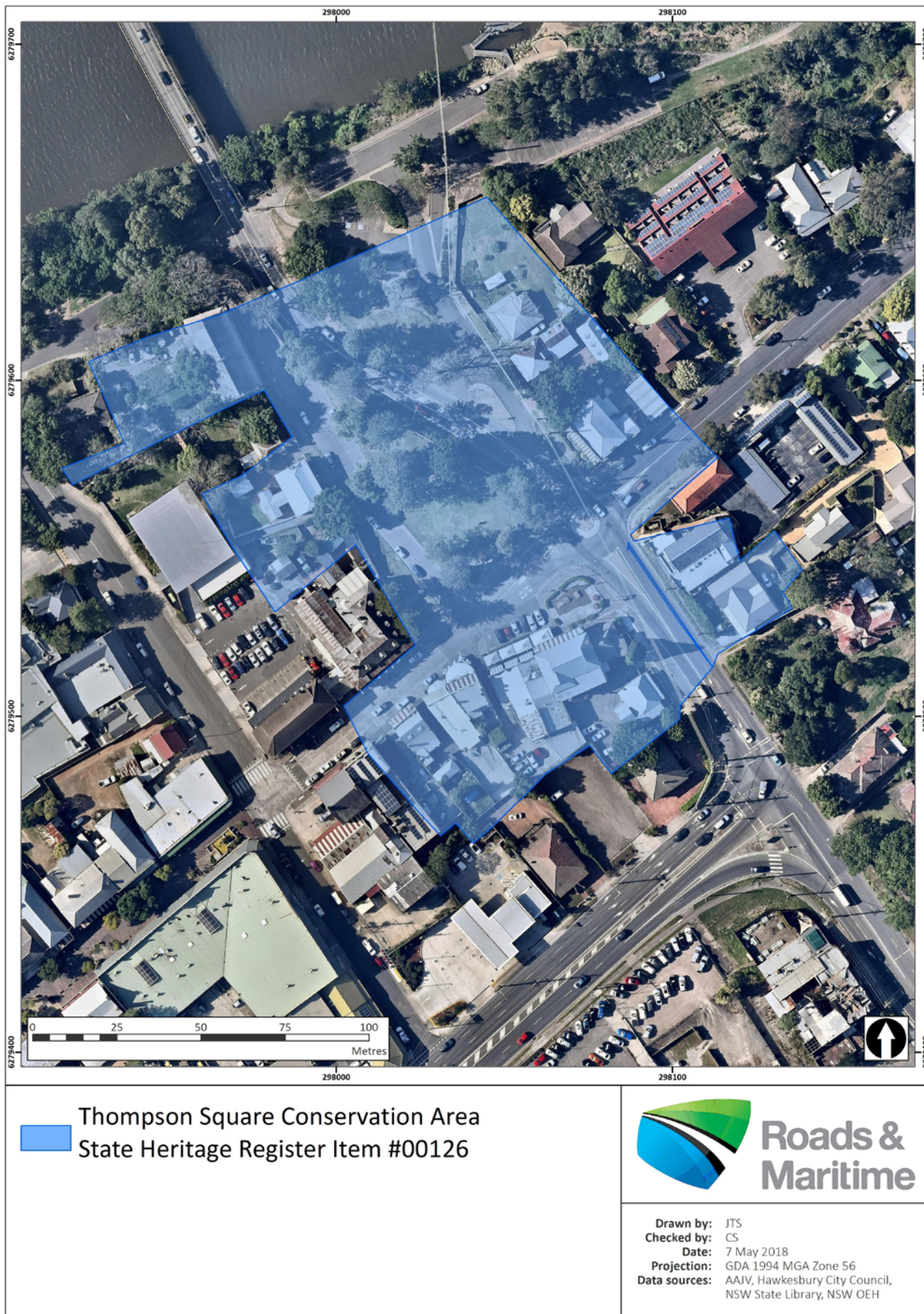


Figure 1: Map showing the location of the Thompson Square Conservation Area, Hawkesbury Council LEP 2012.

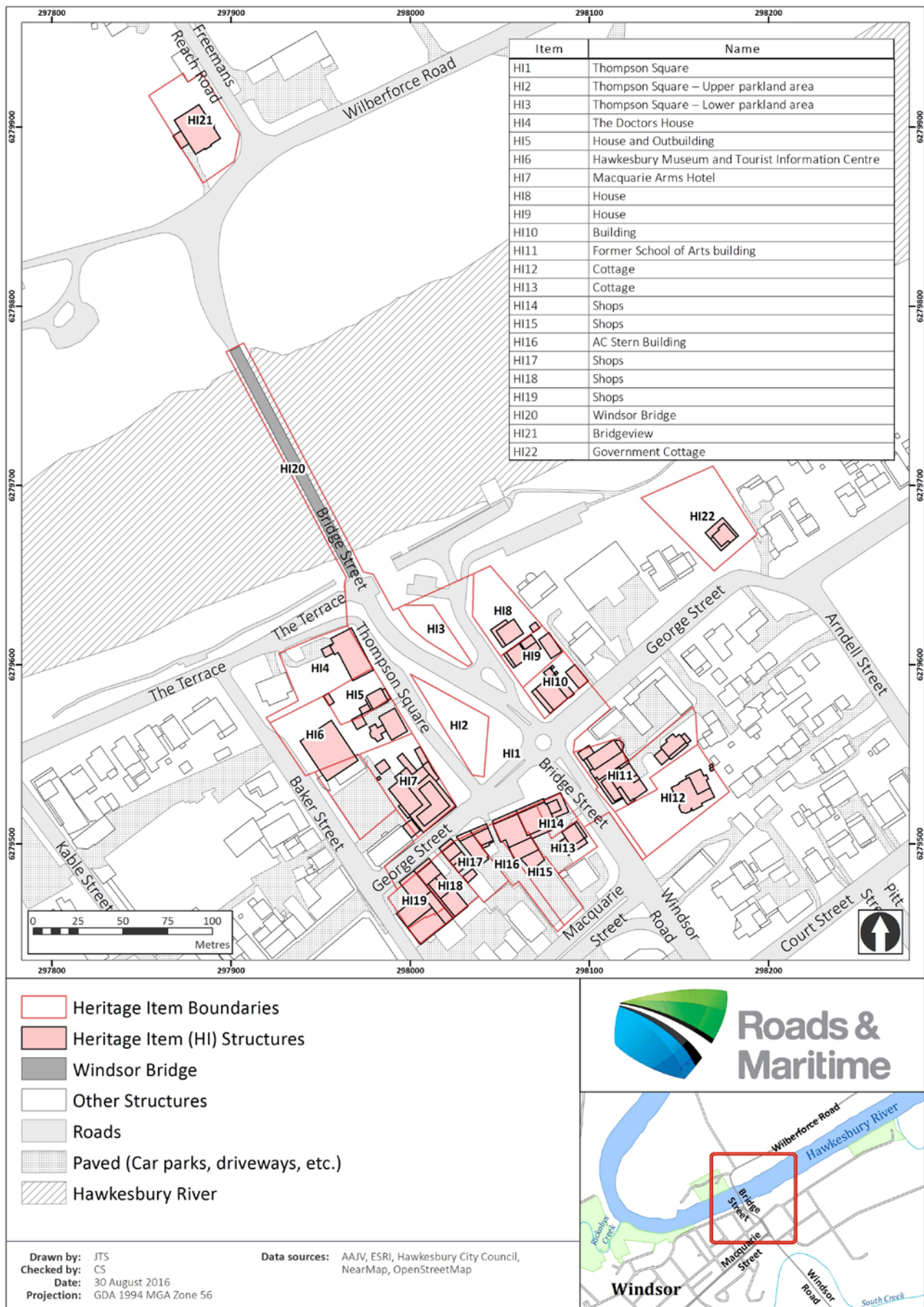


Figure 2: Map showing the heritage items within Thompson Square Conservation Area.

1.7 Ownership

Thompson Square Conservation Area and the study area currently consists of multiple ownerships, including State and local government, private commercial and residential sectors, as follows:

- The road reserves and the areas for the new planned bridge approaches are owned by Hawkesbury City Council.
- The road surface, between kerbs, is managed by RMS.
- The structure of Windsor Bridge is owned by RMS during its operational life as a working road infrastructure item.
- The public domain land of Thompson Square Conservation Area is owned and managed by Hawkesbury City Council.
- The buildings within and along the boundaries of the study area are owned by a variety of private owners.
- Infrastructure within the study area is owned by a variety of utility providers including Sydney Water Corporation (water and sewer), Endeavour Energy (high and low voltage electrical), Jemena (gas) and a variety of telecommunications companies.

Figure 3 graphically shows the arrangement of land ownership within, and adjacent to, the study area.

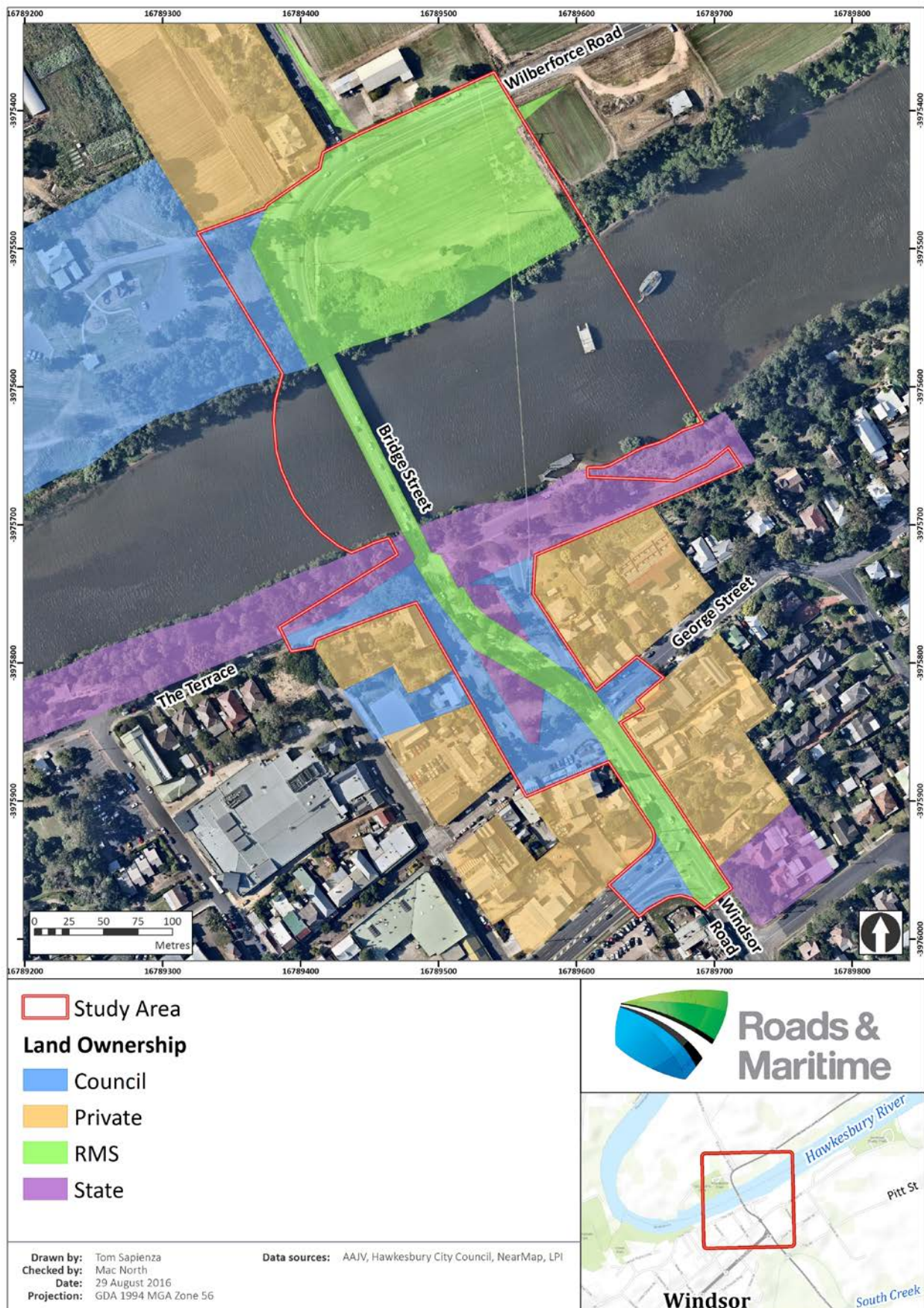


Figure 3: Land ownership plan.

1.8 Heritage Status

The study area consists of two main heritage items, listed on the following statutory registers:

- NSW SHR, item #00126 as Thompson Square Conservation Area
- RMS Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register (S170), item #4309589 as Hawkesbury River Bridge, Windsor
- Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2012, item #I00126 as Thompson Square and item #I276 as Windsor Bridge.

The study area also includes the following non-statutory heritage listings:

- National Trust of Australia (NSW) Register under IDs S10510 and S11456 as Thompson Square Precinct.

The study area boundaries do not, and are not required to, accord exactly with the boundaries of the various conservation areas. The study area is as defined in Appendix 2 of the Minister's Conditions of Approval plus those additional areas of project impact agreed to by RMS.

There are also numerous buildings adjacent to the study area that are listed on the SHR and LEP.

1.9 Acknowledgements and Authorship

This Interpretation Plan has been prepared by the Austral AHMS Joint Venture (AAJV), in conjunction with a range of expert sub-consultants.

AAJV is an unincorporated joint venture of Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd and Extent Heritage Pty Ltd (a merger of Archaeological and Heritage Management Solutions Pty Ltd and Futurepast Heritage Consulting Pty Ltd).

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1.10 Definitions

Table 1: Definitions from the Burra Charter

Term	Definition
Adaptation	Modifying a place to suit the existing use or a proposed use. Use means the functions of a place, as well as the activities and practices that may occur at the place.
Compatible use	A use that respects the cultural significance of a place. Such a use involves no, or minimal, impact on cultural significance.
Conservation	All the processes of looking after a place so to retain its cultural significance.
Cultural significance	Aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects. Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups.
Fabric	All the physical material of the place including components, fixtures, contents, and objects.
Maintenance	The continuous protective care of the fabric and setting of a place, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves restoration or reconstruction.
Place	Site, area, land, landscape, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, and may include components, contents, spaces and views.
Preservation	Maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration.
Related Place	A place that contributes to the cultural significance of another place.
Restoration	Returning the existing fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.
Reconstruction	Returning the place to a known earlier state and is distinguished from restoration by the introduction of new material into the fabric.
Setting	The area around a place, which may include the visual catchment.

Table 2: Definitions from the Ename Charter

Term	Definition
Cultural Heritage Site	Refers to a place, locality, natural landscape, settlement area, architectural complex, archaeological site, or standing structure that is recognized and often legally protected as a place of historical and cultural significance.
Interpretation	Refers to the full range of potential activities intended to heighten public awareness and enhance understanding of cultural heritage site. These can include print and electronic publications, public lectures, on-site and directly related off-site installations, educational programmes, community activities, and ongoing research, training, and evaluation of the interpretation process itself.
Interpretive infrastructure	Refers to physical installations, facilities, and areas at, or connected with a cultural heritage site that may be specifically utilised for the purposes of interpretation and presentation including those supporting interpretation via new and existing technologies.
Presentation	Specifically denotes the carefully planned communication of interpretive content through the arrangement of interpretive information, physical access, and interpretive infrastructure at a cultural heritage site. It can be conveyed through a variety of technical means, including, yet not requiring, such elements as informational panels, museum-type displays, formalized walking tours, lectures and guided tours, and multimedia applications and websites.
Site Interpreters	Refers to staff or volunteers at a cultural heritage site who are permanently or temporarily engaged in the public communication of information relating to the values and significance of the site.

1.11 Abbreviations

Table 3: Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
AAJV	Austral AHMS Joint Venture
AFG	Aboriginal Focus Group
BP	Before present (AD 1950)
CAWB	Community Action for Windsor Bridge
DPE	Department of Planning and Environment
HCC	Hawkesbury City Council
ka	Abbreviation for thousands of years ago (e.g. 1 ka equals 1,000 years ago)
LEC	NSW Land and Environment Court

Abbreviation	Meaning
LEP	<i>Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012</i>
NPW Act	<i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>
OEH	Office of Environment and Heritage
PAD	Potential archaeological deposit
RAP	Registered Aboriginal party
RMS	Roads and Maritime Services
S170	Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register
SCMP	Strategic Conservation Management Plan
SHR	State Heritage Register
SSBA	Surface Supplied Breathing Apparatus
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
WBRP	Windsor Bridge Replacement Project

2 Site Significance

The existing Statement of Significance for Thompson Square Conservation Area as shown on the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage listing sheet for the item, is as follows:

Thompson Square is one of the oldest public squares in Australia and notable for the large number of Colonial Georgian buildings which surround it. It is the only public space remaining from the original town and has played an important part in the history of the town. It is the only remaining civic space as laid out by Governor Macquarie and is a vital precinct in the preservation of the early Colonial character of Windsor. The Square reflects Macquarie's visionary schemes for town planning excellence in the infant colony (Sheedy 1975).

The existing Statement of Significance for Windsor Bridge, as shown on the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage listing sheet for the item, is as follows:

The Windsor Bridge has a high level of historic, technical, aesthetic and social significance as an important historical and physical landmark in one of the State's pre-eminent historic towns, and in the wider Sydney region. It is the oldest extant crossing of the Hawkesbury River. Together with the successive crossings upstream at Richmond, this bridge has played a major role in shaping the history of the Hawkesbury area, functioning for well over a century as an all important link between the communities on either side of the River and as an essential component in a through route of importance in the development of the Sydney region. The series of major alterations to the structure since its construction articulate the continuing difficulties of negotiating a crossing of this major waterway with its frequent floods. The Windsor Bridge has landmark qualities as one of only two bridge crossings of the Hawkesbury River in the Hawkesbury area and as such it defines the surrounding network of roads. It is a large structure, and although simple in appearance, impressive. The bridge represents a major engineering project in the State for its time. The addition of a reinforced concrete beam deck to replace the timber deck in the 1920s is a relatively early use of this technology. The River and this crossing of it has defined the life of several generations of local inhabitants on both sides of the River. As the suburban outskirts of Sydney widen and come closer to the still distinct and distinctive Macquarie towns, the rich history of the area and its physical remains become increasingly important to the community's sense of identity. The Windsor Bridge is thus an important part of Windsor's history and identity.

The SCMP (AAJV, January 2018) included a Summary Statement of Heritage Significance for Thompson Square Conservation Area and the SCMP study area:

The study area for the SCMP is of State-level heritage significance for built, Aboriginal, historic, archaeological and landscape values. The area was used by the local Aboriginal people at least as early as 23,000 BP – representing some of the earliest known dates for Aboriginal habitation in the Sydney Basin. The sand sheet that extends through much of the study area is likely to contain additional significant remains of early Aboriginal habitation which will broaden the understanding of early lifeways in the Sydney Basin through future archaeological investigation. Later period (Holocene) Aboriginal cultural material will provide further detail on a better understood period of Aboriginal habitation, and the opportunity for comparative analysis with equivalent deposits in areas such as the Windsor Museum site and Pitt Town. The general area is also a known site of interaction between local Aboriginal people and colonial settlers, with archaeological evidence of Aboriginal reuse of colonial glassware and

documented accounts of both friendly interaction and violent conflict in the historical record.

Historically, the area is associated with the early settlement of Green Hills and the later formalisation of the town of Windsor by Governor Macquarie in the early nineteenth century. As one of the Macquarie Towns, Windsor was part of Macquarie's vision for the evolution of the colony of NSW in general, as well as the formalisation of the civic space in Windsor through the declaration of Thompson Square as the earliest town square in Australia. While modified, the general configuration of Thompson Square reflects its early boundaries and provides an insight into the early colonial development of Windsor and colonial Australian towns.

Thompson Square also has a strong association with colonial figure Andrew Thompson, a freed convict turned entrepreneur, who demonstrated the social mobility between the convict and freedman classes early in the history of Australia. His friendship with Governor Macquarie and his memorialisation through the naming of Thompson Square are important symbols of the changing social position of and attitudes towards freed convicts in the early settlement. The present Thompson Square is largely based on the land leased and later granted to Andrew Thompson. Following the establishment and formalisation of Thompson Square, it became an important civic space for the growing community of Windsor.

The landscape of Thompson Square and the study area reflects the changing needs and ambitions of the local community over time. The early square was used as a place of public gatherings, markets and even executions, while the purpose changed in the late nineteenth century so that the space assumed a more park-like function. The construction of Windsor Bridge in the late nineteenth century led to the first of many impacts on Thompson Square as roads were established, altered, expanded and realigned through the transition from pedestrian and horse-drawn vehicles to private motor vehicles and heavy vehicles, reflecting the growth in trade and development of the consumer economy in the twentieth century. The vegetation and landscape elements of the park reflect this change in use from a utilitarian public space used for a variety of functions to a space for passive recreation. The landscape also reflects the cumulative and ongoing impact of flooding in the area, through the periodic inundation of Thompson Square and the surrounding area.

Windsor Bridge replaced the earlier punt crossing of the river and reflects the importance of the transport routes through Windsor and the increasing importance of road traffic over river traffic for the shipping of goods. The bridge was modified on several occasions to address issues related to flooding and the increased impact of modern traffic, particularly with the pre-cast, reinforced concrete modifications in the 1930s, which reflect technological innovation at the time. The new Windsor Bridge will continue the tradition of progressive alterations of the river crossing in response to changing needs and technology, and will reflect the continued importance of Windsor as a transport route.

The historical archaeological remains within the study area include partial remains of some early colonial structures, particularly along the eastern side of the study area. These provide an important opportunity to investigate the undocumented aspects of the area's history and development, through future excavation, conservation and interpretation. It is likely that even more substantial archaeological remains of the colonial period exist in the private lands on the periphery of the study area, which have been subject to lesser impacts over the past 200 years. The identified archaeological remains of the circa-1814 wharf are

an important example of an early colonial maritime structure and provide an opportunity to study and interpret the maritime history of the area.

The collection of buildings adjoining the study area reflect the continual development of the area since the 1810s through to the 1970s. Buildings such as the Macquarie Arms Hotel reflect the earliest phases of development and buildings constructed from the nineteenth century demonstrate the early character of the area. The later twentieth-century buildings show the change of Windsor and the need for modern buildings to serve the growing town.

The parts of the study area north of the Hawkesbury River are significant for the vantage they provide back towards Thompson Square and the surrounding area, and give an opportunity to reflect on the changes in the area from the colonial period to the present. The surrounding landscape is, however, utilitarian farmland which, while reflective of the European modification of the area for agriculture, is not itself significant. Little in the way of significant Aboriginal or historical archaeology was identified north of the river.

Collectively, these elements of the study area contribute to the significance of Thompson Square at a State and local level.

3 Themes

The following table outlines the key NSW and Local Historical Themes³ that can be applied to the Thompson Square Conservation Area and Windsor Bridge site. These themes represent the strongest interpretive narratives for the site due to physical evidence, extensive representation in the historic record, high historic significance or level of local importance and appeal to the community.

Table 4: Key NSW and Local Historic Themes

NSW Theme	Local Theme	Summary
Environment	Hawkesbury River	The Hawkesbury River is one of the most significant riverine systems on Australia's east coast. The study area has a complex geomorphological history of fluvial and Aeolian processes that created Windsor's contemporary landscape.
	Major flooding	Flood history is an essential part of understanding the topographical and physical development of the study area during both Aboriginal and European colonisation.
Aboriginal people, cultures and interactions with other cultures	Darug people	The Darug language group occupied the study area beside the Hawkesbury River for millennia prior to European colonisation.
	Archaeological evidence of Aboriginal occupation up to 33,000 years ago	The Hawkesbury-Nepean River corridor contains some of the earliest evidence of Aboriginal occupation in Australia. Excavations at Thompson Square Conservation Area have found evidence of Aboriginal occupation up to 33,000 years ago.
	Contact between Aboriginal and European Communities	Change in traditional lifestyles, conflict, dislocation and depopulation due to disease and Aboriginal Reserves and Mission Stations. Evidence of European glass artefacts found within the study area which have been reworked by Aboriginal people, demonstrating the continuation of cultural practices and cultural adaptation post European colonisation.

³ NSW Historical Themes, October 2001, Heritage Council of NSW,
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/heritagebranch/heritage/themes2006.pdf>

NSW Theme	Local Theme	Summary
Transport	Punt Service	A regular punt service ran intermittently for sixty years from 1814-1874, crossing the Hawkesbury north-south. The punt service allowed the movement of goods and people between Windsor and Wilberforce.
	Wharf	Wharfage was an important aspect Thompson Square Conservation Area from the beginning of settlement in 1795. Wharfage gave direct boat access to the government precinct in the early European history of the site and formed part of an important trade hub between the Hawkesbury and Sydney.
	Windsor Bridge	Built in 1874, Windsor Bridge is the oldest extant crossing of the Hawkesbury River. An important link between the communities on either side of the river, the bridge allowed Windsor to become the primary commercial and administrative centre in the north-west.
	Trade	With the establishment of land grants along the upper Hawkesbury from 1794, where the soils of the flood-plain were superior to those already exploited around Sydney, Parramatta and Toongabbie, Thompson Square Conservation Area became an important trading hub for produce.
Government and Administration	1794 settlement "Mulgrave Place"	Mulgrave Place, the early European settlement in which Thompson Square Conservation Area was located, was comprised the one hundred and eighteen farming grants promised on the fertile lowlands on both sides of the river. The settlement was set up in response to a recurrent food shortage in the colony.
	Military Post	The military had a long association with Thompson Square Conservation Area, settled in the south-western corner of the site in military barracks. They were largely associated with provision store duty.
	Public Square	Thompson Square Conservation Area is one of the earliest public squares in Australia.
	Colonial food supply	In the first years after European colonisation, there was a recurrent shortage of food in the colony. The study area was soon utilised as a trading hub for food between the fertile farming land of the Hawkesbury and Sydney.

NSW Theme	Local Theme	Summary
	Governor Lachlan Macquarie	Governor Macquarie, the fifth Governor of New South Wales, established the town of "Windsor" as part of the "Macquarie Towns", officially declared the study area a formal civic space and named it "Thompson Square".
Towns, Suburbs and Villages	Andrew Thompson	Andrew Thompson was the colony's first ex-convict magistrate and important individual in the early development of Mulgrave Hills.
	Town planning – James Meehan	Meehan was responsible for the first detailed survey of the new town of Windsor in 1811.
	Built heritage around Thompson Square Conservation Area	Thompson Square Conservation Area is not significant solely for the public space, but also the built environment which grew up on three sides. Thompson Square Conservation Area is associated with some of the earliest Colonial Georgian buildings in NSW.
	Margaret Catchpole	Catchpole was a convict, writer and nurse who became a pioneer in the Hawkesbury area.

The following table outlines the key principles for best practise outlined in the NSW Heritage Office *Interpreting Heritage Places and Items Guidelines* (August 2005), and how the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project has been prepared in accordance with this guideline.

Table 6: NSW Heritage Office *Interpreting Heritage Places and Items Guidelines*

Principle		Response	Report references
1	<i>Respect for the special connections between people and items</i>	<p>All relevant groups have been identified within the IP as part of the themes, audiences and community consultation. This has been reflected in the interpretation concepts.</p> <p>As part of the development of this IP, community consultation was undertaken with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people who are associated with the site. This provided opportunities for people to participate in the planning process for interpretation.</p> <p>Interpretation opportunities also include off-site audiences and collaboration with others to interpret their own heritage. All opportunities aims to interpret, commemorate and celebrate significance associations between people and place.</p>	<p>Section 4 - Themes</p> <p>Section 5.5 – Audiences</p> <p>Section 6 – Consultation</p> <p>Section 7 – Interpretation zones</p> <p>Section 8 – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage</p>

Principle		Response	Report references
2	<i>Understand the item and convey its significance</i>	<p>The IP been prepared through a critical review and reading of a wide variety of background documentation. Of note, the IP has utilised the detailed history, site analysis and significance assessment outlined in the Thompson Square Strategic Conservation Management Plan prepared by AAJC (January 2018) to inform an understanding of the site.</p> <p>Within the IP, this document review is reflected in the Key Themes which identify areas and items of interest based on site significance.</p>	<p>Section 3 – Site Significance</p> <p>Section 4 - Themes</p> <p>Section 5 – Site Analysis</p>
3	<i>Use existing records of the item, research additional information, and make these publicly available (subject to security and cultural protocols)</i>	<p>The IP been prepared through a critical review and reading of a wide variety of background documentation. Of note, the plan has utilised the detailed history, site analysis and significance assessment outlined in the Thompson Square Strategic Conservation Management Plan prepared by AAJC (January 2018) to inform an understanding of the site.</p>	Throughout the IP
4	<i>Explore, respect and respond to the identified audience</i>	<p>This IP responds to a range of expected audiences for the site, including residents and locals, tourists/visitors, consumers and the general public, working professionals, and off-site audiences. Where possible, their expectations, preconceptions, physical requirements, and their cultural, demographic and behavioural characteristic have been discussed.</p>	Section 5.5 – Audiences
5	<i>Make reasoned choices about themes, stories and strategies.</i>	<p>A critical review and reading of a wide variety of background documentation, site analysis, identification of key themes and community consultation have been used to make reasoned choices about heritage interpretation for the site.</p> <p>Explanations for the choices of interpretive media have been discussed.</p>	<p>Section 3 – Site Significance</p> <p>Section 4 - Themes</p> <p>Section 5 – Site Analysis</p> <p>Section 6 – Consultation</p> <p>Section 7 – Interpretation zones</p>
6	<i>Stimulate thought and dialogue, provoke response</i>	<p>Eight interpretation precincts, as well as additional opportunities, have been recommended as part of this IP. Through</p>	Section 7 – Interpretation zones

Principle		Response	Report references
	<i>and enhance understanding</i>	this, a range of interpretation options and media have been outlined which aim to enhance an understanding of the site for audiences.	
7	<i>Research the physical, historical, spiritual and contemporary context of the item, including related items, and respect local amenity and culture.</i>	<p>Research for this IP includes a critical review and reading of a wide variety of background documentation, site analysis, identification of key themes and community consultation. It is understood that the report has a well-rounded understanding of the site context and culture.</p> <p>Opportunities include off-site audiences and collaboration with others to interpret their own heritage.</p>	<p>Section 3 – Site Significance</p> <p>Section 4 - Themes</p> <p>Section 5 – Site Analysis</p> <p>Section 6 – Consultation</p>
8	<i>Develop interpretation methods and media which sustain the significance of the items, its character and authenticity.</i>	As outlined in the limitations section of the report, interpretation planning was based around the protection of heritage fabric, views and site uses in an aim to protect site significance and character.	Section 7.1 - Limitations
9	<i>Integrate interpretation in conservation planning, and in all stages of a conservation project</i>	A range of opportunities for integration of interpretation in the conservation and planning processes of the project have been included within the IP. Key examples include the update of online media, integration with community in archaeological programs through the Hawkesbury Museum and site tours/visits including community engagement and outreach programs during archaeological salvage excavation.	Section 7.3 - Additional Opportunities
10	<i>Include interpretation in the ongoing management of an item; provide for regular maintenance, evaluation and review.</i>	<p>The IP provides recommendations for the future delivery of the program and the need for ongoing management.</p> <p>Interpretation and its ongoing management have been included as a set of heritage policies in the Thompson Square Strategic Conservation Management Plan prepared by AAJV.</p>	<p>Section 9 – Conclusions & Recommendations.</p> <p>Refer to Thompson Square Strategic Conservation Management Plan prepared by AAJV, Volume 2, Section 5.10</p>
11	<i>Involve people with relevant skills,</i>	This IP has been prepared by a professional, multidisciplinary team with a	Section 2.9 – Acknowledgements and

Principle		Response	Report references
	<i>knowledge and Experience.</i>	wide range of experience in interpretation planning. In particular, this IP was led by Interpretation Specialist, Kylie Christian, who has over 17 years' experience in the heritage industry.	Authorship.
12	<i>Collaborate with organisations and the local Community.</i>	The IP was prepared in consultation with a number of government organisations and local community groups.	Section 2.9 – Acknowledgements and Authorship. Section 6 – Consultation

4 Site Analysis

4.1 Physical Aspects

Whilst the project will result in a change within the project area, it will provide safer pedestrian and cyclist access between the township and the northern foreshore, allow people to enjoy Thompson Square Conservation Area from a variety of aspects, and will limit vehicular access to the street frontages of George Street, Old Bridge Street and The Terrace.

The installation of the Windsor Bridge replacement will provide a unification of Thompson Square Conservation Area grassed area that pays homage to the sites previous configurations. The site will be primarily grassed, open space with access stairs provided adjacent to the bridge abutment. The installation of the new bridge will also provide a more reliable bridge to meet capacity requirements and current road safety standards.



Figure 4: 3D sketch of Thompson Square Conservation Area showing the unified, grassed area (image courtesy of SMM).

4.2 Vision Statement

This IP has reviewed the proposed unification of Thompson Square Conservation Area carefully and with consideration to the various aspects of the site. The unified site will provide a new canvas for the numerous interpretation opportunities. The IP is designed to provide a pathway in the understanding of the place whilst allowing audiences the ability to delve further into the site's history and heritage as they desire. Utilising Thompson Square Conservation Area, this report will aim to ensure audiences gain:

- an understanding of the site history and development of the precinct;
- consideration of environmental, Aboriginal and European factors and history;
- a greater respect for the heritage significance of the site; and
- an understanding of heritage as a living, ongoing aspect of community life that should be embraced and nurtured to ensure a continuation of living memory.

Further consultation with relevant stakeholders, prior to the finalisation of the interpretative devices, will be critical to the effectiveness of the site. Further stakeholder input into the content, design features and fabrics, and location will assist in establishing such things as what generalist audiences as opposed to specialist audiences may be seeking from the site as a destination experience, ease of future maintenance, as well as appropriateness of stories and/or images being suggested.

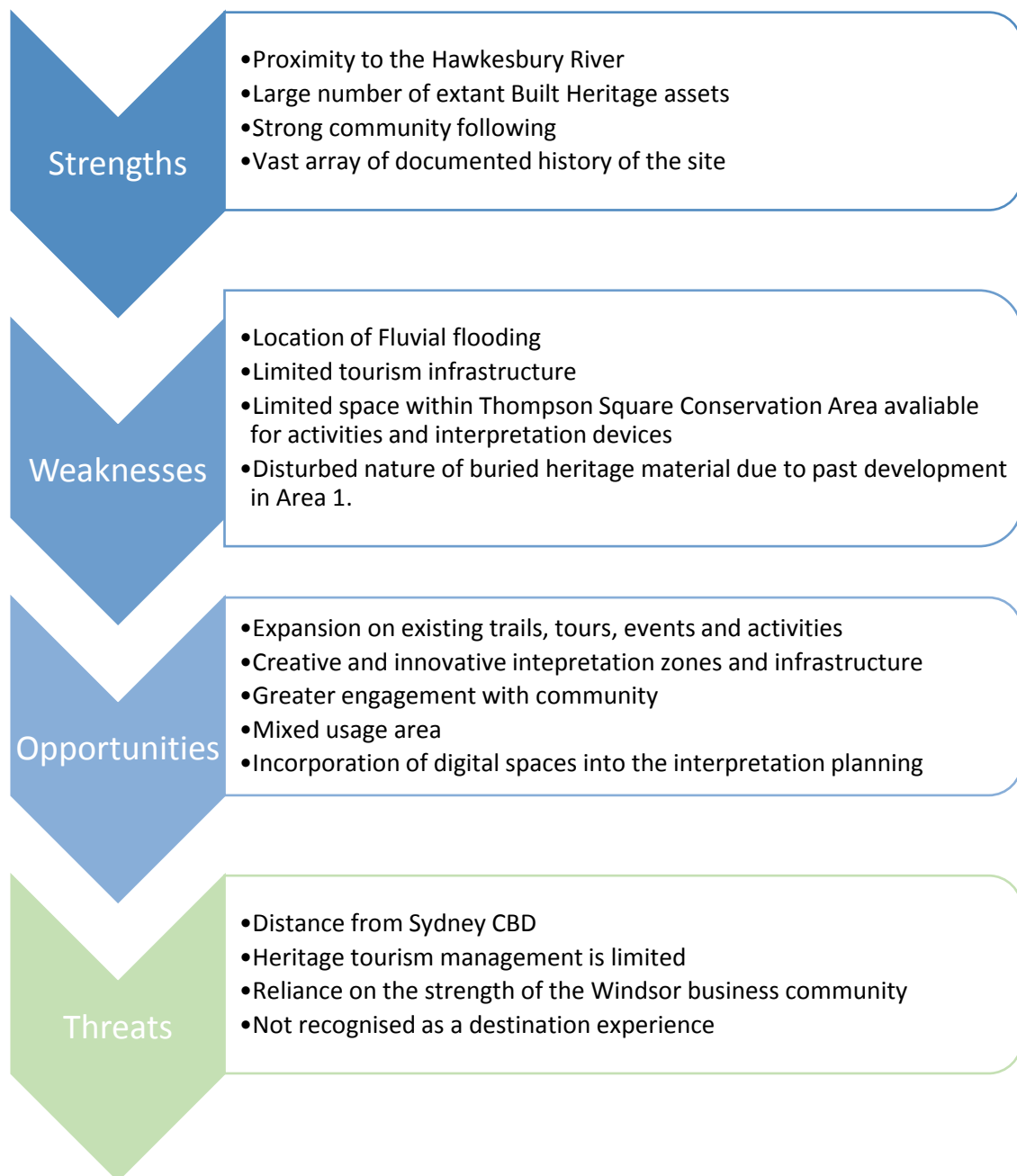
4.3 Key Considerations

In scoping an interpretation plan for the site, considerations include:

- The site's proposed layout and built environment.
- The site's heritage value and local history.
- Consideration of any built heritage and archaeology related to the site.
- Consideration of the contemporary use of the precinct and associated audiences.
- Community and stakeholders input.
- NSW Heritage Office *Interpreting Heritage Places and Items Guidelines* (August 2005)

4.4 SWOT Analysis

The following diagram outlines the SWOT analysis for the project area, including strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats with regards to interpretation in the study area.



4.5 Audience

Audience research and consideration is essential for relevant and effective interpretation. This involves identifying the expectations, preconceptions, physical requirements, cultural, demographic and behavioural characteristics of the audience, planning to meet their needs, and respecting their cultural values.

Whilst the general history and heritage of Thompson Square Conservation Area is reasonably well known within the immediate area, the full range of heritage values associated with Thompson Square Conservation Area is not generally as well known by the wider community. There are a few concentrated groups dedicated to advocating the site's history and heritage, many people, both within the area and those external to it, may have limited understanding of its historical associations, Aboriginal cultural heritage or indeed much of its actual documented history.

Overall, the interpretation needs to be designed in such a way as to fulfil the needs of the generalist visitor, interested in history and heritage, but at the same time providing enough detail to satisfy those seeking a greater understanding. It should not overwhelm the visitor, be of a

specialist nature, or be limited to represent only a phase or singular perspective. Being too focused would alienate the audience potentially creating an uninspiring, voiceless site devoid of the rich and varied history and heritage of Thompson Square Conservation Area.

There are several audiences which must be considered when creating interpretation in and around Thompson Square Conservation Area.

4.5.1 Residents and Locals

This includes nearby residents (both long-term and recent arrivals) who may take an interest in the site or have a personal association with it. They would likely visit once or on an occasional basis and view the interpretation both out of direct interest or casual surveillance. They are likely to have a pre-existing understanding of the history and significance of the site, and will therefore likely find interest in more enhanced, site-specific information.

According to the latest available data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, compiled in 2011, there were 1,981 people living in the Windsor area, and a total of 66,782 within the Hawkesbury local government area (LGA). Of these 42.6% of working residents travelled outside of the area to work, with most residents within the Windsor area working within the retail trade industry.

The population breakdown for Windsor alone, those most immediate to the project, included 20.2% aged between 0 and 17, and 25.8% aged 60 years and over, compared with 24.2% and 19.7% respectively for Hawkesbury City.

This is showing that across the residents and locals segment, the mix is predominantly adults, within the 18-59 range, with almost half of those still working travelling outside of the area during business hours.

4.5.2 Tourists/Visitors

Visitors or tourists include those who come specifically to Windsor for a short time or are just passing through the town. They may view the site once or return on an occasional basis, such as an annual vacation destination. As visitors, they are unlikely to have much pre-existing knowledge of the history and significance of the site and will therefore require general, high-level information.

In 2016, Destination NSW data shows that visits to historic/heritage buildings, sites and monuments was the most popular cultural heritage activity undertaken by international and domestic daytrip visitors to NSW (71.8% and 34.9% respectively).

This was followed by visiting museums and art galleries as the second most popular activity undertaken by international and domestic daytrip visitors to NSW (55.7% and 29.9% respectively).

While there is a large international population that partake in these activities NSW wide, tourism in Western Sydney, is largely dominated by domestic visitors, both for overnight stays and day trips, with a large percentage of people originating from Sydney. The Destination NSW visitor profile for western Sydney is defined to include the following suburbs; Auburn, Bankstown, Blacktown, Camden, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, Holroyd, Liverpool, Parramatta, Penrith, The Hills and Wollondilly. This survey data is summarised in the tables below.

Table 5 Purpose of visit

	International	Domestic Overnight	Domestic Daytrip
Holiday	30.2%	16.2%	36.7%
Visiting friends & relatives	53.6%	54.1%	39.0%
Business	9.1%	22.6%	12.3%
Other	9.1%	7.6%	12.0%

Table 6 Top Activities

	Domestic Overnight	Domestic Daytrip
Visiting friends & relatives	61.3%	42.6%
Eat out	48.7%	40.5%
Shopping	19.4%	13.2%
Pub/clubs/disco etc	17.8%	7.5%
Sightseeing	12.0%	8.3%

This shows that the majority of visitors to the area are visiting friends and relatives who are primarily undertaking cuisine based activities during their stays.

4.5.3 Consumers and the General Public

Thompson Square Conservation Area is bound by a commercial strip on George Street which brings the public of the Hawkesbury LGA towards the site. People may engage with interpretation on site during their visit, either out of direct interest or casual surveillance. Whilst they may have a pre-existing understanding of the history and significance of the site, they are unlikely to spend much time viewing the devices and would therefore be more likely to take in general, high-level, and more visual interpretation.

There is an opportunity to engage this type of visitor through visual (physical interpretation), online (social) and attraction style collateral (trails and events) as they may frequent the area often on a returning basis.

4.5.4 Working Professionals

As Thompson Square Conservation Area is within the vicinity of a commercial zone of Windsor, working professionals are likely to use, or pass through, the park. They may engage with interpretation out of direct interest or casual surveillance. They are likely to have a pre-existing understanding of the history and significance of the site, and will therefore likely find interest in more detailed, site-specific information. Simultaneously, they are unlikely to spend extended periods of time exploring the devices.

4.5.5 Off-site Audiences

These include those who may have no opportunity or capacity to visit the site, but are interested in the history of Thompson Square Conservation Area or Windsor in general. Off-site audiences could include people such as students, schools, historians, archaeologists and families with a

connection to the site, to name a few. The primary ways in which these people are likely to experience the site is through online interaction or print media.

5 Consultation

Consultation with the local community and key stakeholders is an important process in understanding the local values and expectations of the project and how heritage values can be appropriately represented. The consultation process will provide vital information on the values of the place, the relevant themes and general focus of the interpretation, and inform some of the content and device development.

The initial consultation process for the Thompson Square Conservation Area interpretation has been completed and endeavoured to connect with a range of audiences and groups via the AFG. The consultation going forward to finalise the content and devices to be used for interpretation, where possible, should include:

- Further consultation with:
 - Local council
 - Affected owners and residents
 - Aboriginal groups, artists and Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Include informative face-to-face sessions as well as written material.
- Allow adequate time for response and feedback.

Further documentation and consultation is expected to be undertaken during the early construction phases of the bridge project and will include new information from pending salvage works, unexpected finds, and further cultural heritage investigation. This section will be added to at that time.

5.1 Stakeholder Consultation

5.1.1 Aboriginal Focus Group Consultation Meeting

On 28 August 2017, consultation with the AFG Consultation group was held at the Windsor Museum, 8 Baker Street, Windsor, to inform the preparation of the Interpretation Plan and begin initial discussions around content suggestions for Thompson Square Conservation Area. The objective of the consultation was to ensure that the interpretive planning incorporated and considered the issues, concerns and views of Aboriginal stakeholders.

The consultation took the form of a presentation and discussion with attendees able to share their views and discuss the opportunities, style, content and appropriateness of key interpretation priorities. This was followed up with the opportunity of providing feedback on initial draft content suggestions.

In relation to the interpretation, the attendees considered the following points to be the most important:

- Further Aboriginal consultation would be required throughout the development process.
- Local themes, including the environment and the Aboriginal people, should be utilised to ensure a balanced approach.
- Aboriginal cultural heritage should be included across the entire project area as part of the interpretation planning.
- A truthful approach to the representation of the site's history be undertaken.

- Inclusion of the archaeological record is important but should not overshadow the cultural heritage values of the place.
- Inclusion of Aboriginal names where possible, especially the use of ‘Buruberongal’ people instead of Aboriginal people.
- Having and active voice within the content for Aboriginal stories – not written in a passive manner.

In relation to the types of stories that were appropriate to use, initial suggestions included:

- Aboriginal People – the role of women in the food cycle.
- The river’s importance and the environmental impacts of flooding.
- Conflict and treatment of the traditional owners of the land including the causal effect of being relocated away from the river.
- Create a new image narrative and not use existing “spears and boats” imagery as it is misrepresentative.

5.1.2 Heritage Division, OEH – response to Interpretation Strategy (AAJV, September 2016)

In October 2016, OEH responded to the Draft Interpretation Strategy (IS) for the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project.

The Heritage Division commented that “the draft IS is considered to be a quality document, suitable to guide the future interpretation plan required under Condition B1.” OEH specifically addressed the level of detail that should be included with regards to the opportunities to interpret the archaeological record. The fact that the archaeological salvage program is yet to be completed continues to limit a final and consolidated approach towards the use and interpretation of archaeological material. However, the interpretive solutions have been considered, included and elaborated on in this IP throughout the following discussions of the Interpretation zones and concepts.

6 Interpretation Zones – Physicality & Concepts

Identifying appropriate physical locations for interpretation will be critical to the program's success. Without the continuity and cohesion that the interpretive approach requires, interpretation will become disjointed and singular. Based on our analysis of the site, its history and significance, its present use, potential audiences and practical limitations, eight interpretation zones, as well as additional opportunities that have been identified, have been recommended.

Additionally, based on our analysis of the themes and audiences that are expected to be the most successful at each location, a range potential interpretation devices and visual nodes have been prepared.

Below each zone is a description of the locality plus a summary of the possible interpretive devices, designs and components that can be used. This information is further elaborated on and supported by draft context and content in the inventory sheets provided in Appendix A.

6.1 Limitations

A number of limitations were considered during the planning of the recommended interpretation zones, including the following:

- Interpretation zones must respond to the urban design and landscape plan and location of the new the Windsor Bridge.
- Interpretation zones must take into consideration the types of audiences who will interact with different areas of the site.
- Interpretation must not impede movement or views within or towards the study area.
- Interpretation should avoid the modification and/or removal of heritage fabric and mature vegetation.
- Interpretation zones must be confined to the study area. Surrounding built heritage sites are privately owned.
- Where possible, interpretation should respond to existing interpretation within and adjacent to the study area.

6.2 Interpretation Zones

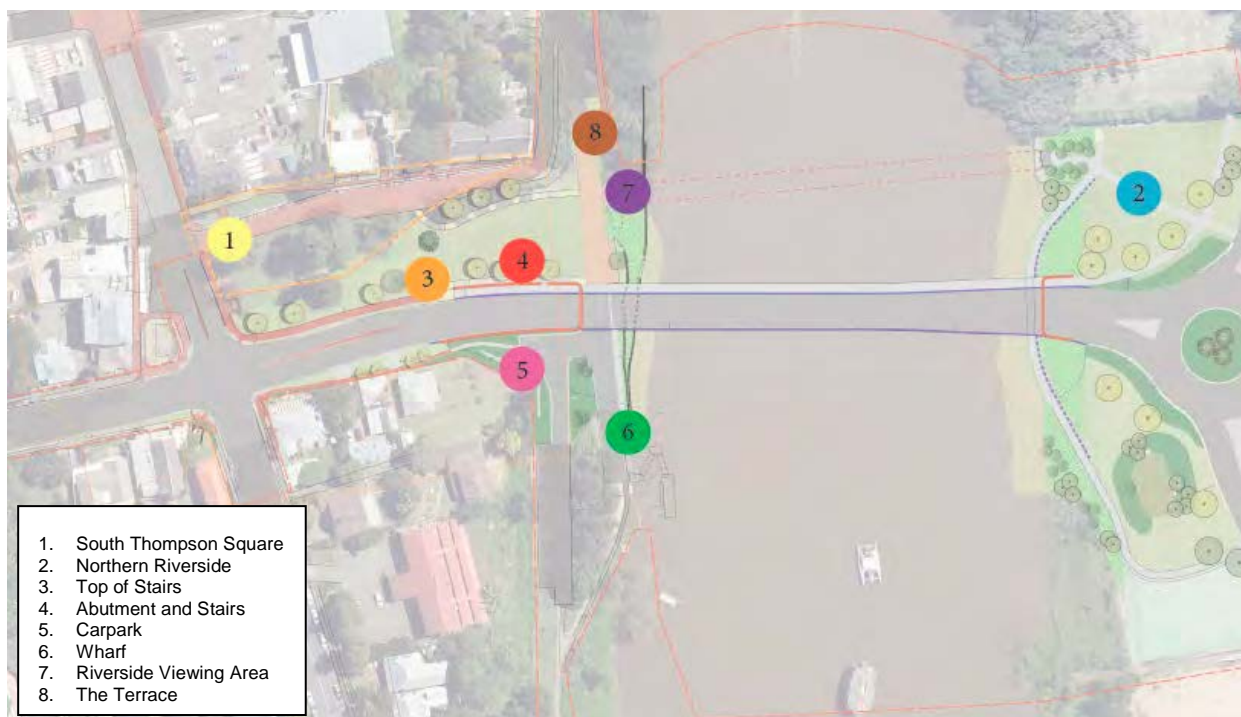


Figure 5: Overview plan of the proposed interpretation zones within the project area.

Zone 1 – South Thompson Square Conservation Area



Zone 1 is bordered by George Street and involves the southern end of Thompson Square Conservation Area. There is opportunity here to include a high-level, general history of Thompson Square Conservation Area, which will deliver information to all types of audiences who visit the site.

Audiences in this area are likely to include a variety of people, who are most unlikely to spend extended periods of time in the location. Therefore, interpretation may only have a brief period of engagement. Interpretation in this zone should be light on text and detail, and perhaps best supplemented by images or other visual media.



Figure 6: Photo montage showing possible interpretation markers.

Text Elements

General history of Thompson Square Conservation Area:

- All text elements for interpretation within this zone will be concerned with the historical development of Thompson Square Conservation Area – pre and post settlement. It will discuss the Aboriginal usage, the inception of Green Hills during early European settlement, to when the space was officially allocated for military and colonial government use, and when that use started to merge with community interests.
- This will likely be set out as separate blocks of text detailing separate phases of the development of Thompson Square.

Visual Elements

- Historic photographs
- Colonial artist impressions of Thompson Square Conservation Area
- Early watercolour plans of Thompson Square Conservation Area
- Site map

- Aboriginal design elements

Zone 2 – Northern Riverside



Zone 2 will be located on the northern side of Hawkesbury River, on the western side of the new bridge. With direct views over the Hawkesbury River towards Thompson Square Conservation Area, there is opportunity here to interpret the industrial history of the study area. Specifically, trade, agriculture and transport will form the theme of the precinct, providing interpretive content on the punt service, wharfage and Windsor Bridge in the movement of goods and people. This area has also been identified as the likely location of

salvaged bridge fabric to be used as part of the interpretation.

New landscaping and pedestrian footpaths will direct audiences towards the precinct, although audiences are likely to only include residents/locals, tourists and visitors who are specifically interested in exploring the zone.

Text Elements

Industrial Heritage of the site:

- Interpretation devices in this area would focus on the industrial heritage themes of the site, as this zone overlooks the site of the original Windsor Bridge, punt and wharf. As the narratives will require a high degree of detail to appropriately explore this industrial history, interpretation in this area may call for several devices.
- The key points of interest in this area include Colonial trade and the various forms of transport that the river has facilitated.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage:

- This zone would be utilised to explore Aboriginal culture and history as it relates to the site and surrounds. Consultation with relevant Aboriginal groups will be required prior to the development of any device content.

Visual Elements

Public art:

- As this space will not be a transient space like some of the other zones, audiences will likely linger and use the space as a community gathering place or point of interest for visitors. Public art installations would enhance the atmosphere of the zone.
- Aboriginal design elements

Built heritage installations:

- There is the potential to integrate some salvaged Windsor Bridge elements into the space as an element of public art/interpretation.
- Historic photographs of Windsor Bridge and the original punt master's cottage.
- Historic plans illustrating former wharfage and punt locations.
- Original northern bridge abutment left in-situ.

Zone 3 – Top of Stairs



Zone 3 is located at the top of the stairs adjacent to the abutment. It provides a centralised location for flood interpretation being at the junction of the stairs and pedestrian access across the bridge. The interpretation in this zone will focus on major flooding events, with a specific reference to the highest recorded flood of 1867 through the use of a custom designed flood level indicator atop a pole in this area. Together with the information panel proposed this will allow for a visual representation for visitors of the extent of the flooding.

Audiences in this zone are likely to include residents/locals, tourists and visitors who come to the site and explore the various features provided.

Text Elements

Flood information:

- Information on flooding, environmental and effects of the flooding and the river.
- Major flooding event details.

Visual Elements

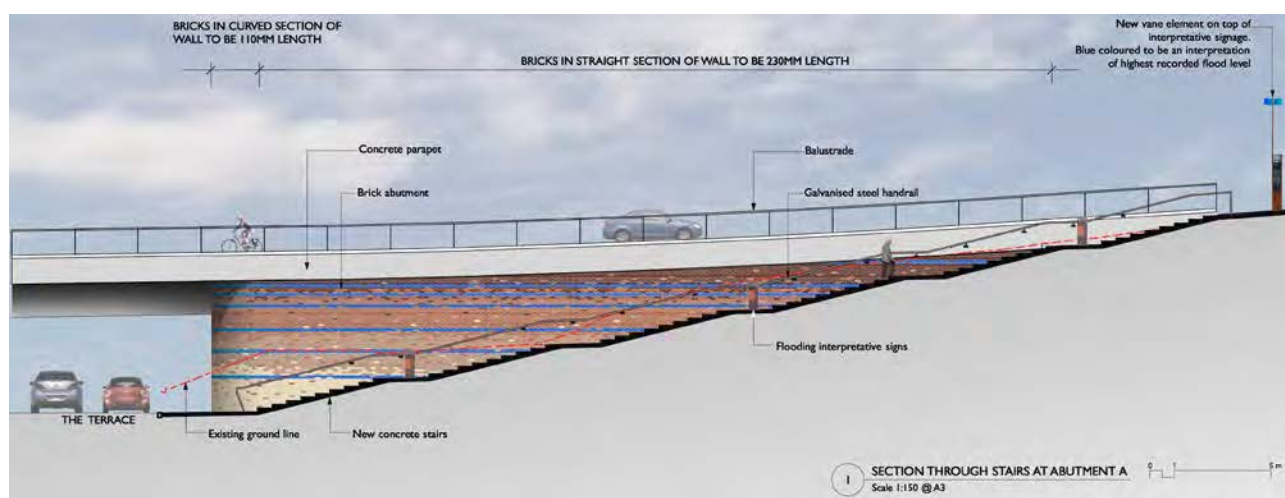
- Flood indicator custom design
- 3D flooding map
- Aboriginal design elements

Zone 4 – Bridge Abutment and Stairs



Zone 4 will utilise the new bridge abutment and new stairs leading up through Thompson Square Conservation Area to interpret the flood history of the Hawkesbury River and its impact on Thompson Square Conservation Area. This is an essential part of understanding the topographical and physical development of the study area. As a zone in which people are likely to pass through rather than linger, there is also opportunity to include “fun facts” which the audience can easily digest as they move through the zone.

Audiences in this zone are likely to include residents/locals, tourists and visitors who come specifically to the site to use the park, experience the interpretation or are just passing through on The Terrace riverside walk.



Text Elements

“Fun Facts”

- Add short, succinct pieces of text (30 words), either as facts or quotes, that relate to Windsor Bridge and Thompson Square Conservation Area. The text would be located on the stair risers.

Visual Elements

Flood indicators

- There is an opportunity to use the new bridge abutment to illustrate major historic flood levels of the Hawkesbury River around Thompson Square Conservation Area.
- There will also be a vane element installation on the bridge itself indicating the highest flood point in history. This may be esoteric in nature, without another form of signage to interpret it.

Zone 5 – North East Thompson Square Conservation Area



Zone 5 is located on the north-eastern side of Lower Thompson Square Conservation Area, in the general location of the wharf car park. As the site of Andrew Thompson's lease, there is opportunity to interpret Thompson's legacy as the colony's first ex-convict magistrate and an important individual in the early development of Mulgrave Hills. As the site of the former government garden, interpretation of government administration in Thompson Square Conservation Area is also practical.

Audiences in this zone are likely to include residents/locals, tourists and visitors who come specifically to the site to use the park, experience the interpretation or are just passing through on The Terrace riverside walk.

Text Elements

Andrew Thompson:

- There would be one interpretation device that is dedicated to the narrative of Andrew Thompson.
- One or two large text blocks that are informative and contain a good amount of detail tailored for audiences who will likely approach interpretation with the intent to gain more detailed information.
- At least one of the text blocks would detail Andrew Thompson's important role within the community.

Visual Elements

- Colonial portrait of Andrew Thompson.
- Watercolour plan of Andrew Thompson's allotment.
- Detail of Colonial art illustrating Andrew Thompson's cottage.

Zone 6 – Wharf Area



Zone 6 is located in the vicinity of the present-day wharf, there is opportunity to interpret the maritime history of Thompson Square Conservation Area and the Hawkesbury River.

Audiences in this zone are likely to include residents/locals, tourists and visitors who come specifically to the site to use the park, experience the interpretation or are just passing through on The Terrace riverside walk.

Text Elements

River History:

- Aboriginal narrative.
- Punt history.
- River significance.

Marine Archaeology:

- A separate interpretation device addressing the waterfront where the historic wharf was located.
- Include details from the archaeological record.

Visual Elements

- Historic photographs and illustrations of the early wharfage.
- Public art.

Zone 7 – Riverside Viewing Area



Zone 7 is located on the south side of the Hawkesbury River, in a comparable location to the current Windsor Bridge. As a viewing area projecting out overlooking the whole site (Thompson Square Conservation Area, Windsor Bridge and Wilberforce), this zone is ideal to capture a general overview of the pre-contact and post-contact history of the study area, as well as context on the archaeological record. This could be captured using a continual story or timeline framework, exploring the changing cultural and physical landscape of the

area.

Audiences in this zone are likely to include residents/locals, tourists and visitors who come specifically to the site to use the park, experience the interpretation or are just passing through on The Terrace riverside walk.

Text Elements

Text elements on this interpretation node will likely be less text-heavy because it will detract from the intent and qualities of the purpose built, interpretation viewing platform.

- General history of Thompson Square Conservation Area:
- This may be in the form of a timeline with small blocks of informative text. It is not necessarily portrayed as a long, detailed narrative but as short, succinct pieces of information.
- These quick grabs of information may be supplemented by one large text block summarising the general history of the site.

Built Heritage

- A panoramic line drawing of the built heritage streetscape, with all the existing corresponding buildings labelled against the panorama.

Aboriginal History, Culture and Stories

- A number of text blocks referencing locations that can be seen from the viewing platform where Aboriginal activities took place evidenced by the oral histories and the archaeological record.
- One of the stories would focus on the account of one of the first court cases involving the mistreatment of Aboriginal people by Europeans in the Colony.

Visual Elements

- Colonial artist impressions of Thompson Square Conservation Area from a similar perspective.
- Panoramic (skyline style) illustrations of the historic streetscape, perhaps using architectural drawings and laser scanning undertaken during the Detailed Archival Recording of Thompson Square Conservation Area.
- Photographic evidence of archaeological record.
- Aboriginal design elements.

6.3 Additional Opportunities

Zone 8 – Southern Riverside (The Terrace)

Zone 8 could utilise the existing walk along The Terrace to explore the marine, historic and Aboriginal archaeology of the study area. Test excavations by Extent Heritage in 2016 as well as previous excavations in the vicinity of the site show that the study area is rich in important archaeological evidence.

Audiences in this zone are likely to include residents/locals, tourists and visitors who use The Terrace riverside walk. They may be directly interested in the interpretation or casually survey it as they move through the site.

Additional Signage along The Walk

- Maritime archaeology
- Historical archaeology
- Aboriginal archaeology

Hawkesbury Regional Museum

There is the opportunity to utilise the Hawkesbury Regional Museum located at 8 Baker Street, Windsor for the display of artefacts excavated during the test and salvage excavation programs within the study area. These displays can be tailored to engage with other collections currently housed within the Museum and further consultation and co-ordination should be undertaken with the Museum Curator. Some other opportunities may include:

- Specific artefact displays and repositories relating to Thompson Square Conservation Area
- Development of travelling exhibitions of highly significant finds that are relatable to wider audiences
- Integration of “community” in archaeology programs

In addition to the above zones, there is still potential for further interpretation development in different areas around Thompson Square Conservation Area, or utilising different media and collaborations.

Online media

- Given the evolving nature of online media, the actual form of online media will be determined upon finalisation of the consultation process with stakeholders. Some examples of online media are, websites, walking tour apps, historic narrative apps
- Oral histories
- Links with Hawkesbury Council website
- A time-lapse video of the salvage excavation
- Interviews with archaeologists, historians, Aboriginal groups, local personalities, etc. and their personal connections with the space

Print media

- Short articles
 - Newspaper

- Local magazine
- Blogs
- Dictionary of Sydney, a website about the history of Sydney (<http://www.dictionaryofsydney.org>)
- Academic publications, which utilise findings from the Aboriginal and historic archaeological records
- Local histories
- Free brochures that are made available from public locations like Council, the Visitor Centre, library and local retailers

Site tours/visits

- Community engagement and outreach programs during the archaeological salvage excavation schedule
- Guided or self-guided trails and tours.

7 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

After the targeted stakeholder consultation, and an introduction to a local Darug artist was established, a discussion around the content regarding Aboriginal Cultural Heritage for the interpretation of Thompson Square Conservation Area was undertaken to ensure inclusion and representation.

Some of the themes that have been suggested for content development include:

- The Environment
- Hawkesbury River
- Buruberongal of the Darug Nation
- Archaeological Evidence
- Contact between Aboriginal and Europeans
- Women and the Food Cycle
- Conflict

The IP identifies two zones where there are opportunities to interpret Aboriginal Cultural Heritage:

- Zone 2 – Northern Riverside
- Zone 7 – Riverside Viewing Area.

As the archaeological record is to directly inform the development of the Cultural Heritage content, along with the consultation with appropriate local Aboriginal groups, the approach to this content will continue to be developed as the salvage works proceed.

7.1 Content

As part of the on-going process of the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project it is acknowledged that the archaeological record will help inform the interpretation content for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.

Simultaneously, establishment and development of content will be undertaken as part of the process, which will include consultation with local Aboriginal groups, ensuring that a holistic approach to the information contained within the interpretation devices is achieved.

7.2 Visual Elements

As part of the development of the interpretation for Thompson Square Conservation Area, it is recommended that consultation with a local Darug artist should be undertaken to ensure appropriate artwork, elements and content are used. To date discussions with local artist, Leanne Watson, have enabled the inclusion of some examples into the IP, which can be adapted at a later date when the finalisation of the interpretation content is completed into the IP (Stage 2).

Leanne Watson is the daughter of Aunty Edna Watson and Uncle Allan Watson, Elders of the Darug Community. Leanne has been the Director of DCAC (Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation) for the past 15 plus years. Leanne's traditional artwork style will provide inspiration for design of the interpretation markers.

Some samples of Leanne's work to follow.



Figure 7: Samples of artwork by Darug artist Leanne Watson, also known as Mulgo within the Aboriginal community.

8 Recommendations and Next Steps

Thompson Square Conservation Area will continue to function as a community and heritage hub upon completion of the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project. The inclusion of a holistic approach to the interpretation planning for the precinct is essential to adequately and effectively communicate the vast and diverse array of history, heritage, cultural values and stories associated with the place.

It is important that both tangible and intangible heritage is captured in the story-telling of the Thompson Square Conservation Area. The need to address both the European heritage in the development of the Square, but also the long history of Aboriginal usage, significance and custodianship of the land must be addressed as part of the continuing narrative of the site. The intent of the Interpretation Plan is to consolidate the “story” of the site, frame it within identified themes and storylines developed in consultation, and structure the devices as a fluid and balanced trail for visitors to engage with on a variety of levels.

To ensure that this narrative is as comprehensive as possible, the development of the content for the interpretation will be done in conjunction with the planning of the urban design, consultation with appropriate stakeholders, as well as be informed by the archaeological record uncovered during the salvage program.

As such, the future program for the delivery of the interpretation for Thompson Square Conservation Area relies upon:

- Completion of the archaeological salvage program to provide accurate and relatable information regarding the archaeological record to inform the content of the interpretation as per Condition B3.
- Further consultation with OEH on the design, content, location and materials be undertaken as per Condition B1.
- Finalisation of the interpretation content once salvage is completed and consultation is finalised.
- Further consultation with Council in the decision making process as Council will be involved in the hosting and maintenance of interpretative measures.

Furthermore, the following recommendations, following on from the work already undertaken during this process, should be completed to finalise the approach and content for the interpretation within Thompson Square Conservation Area:

Recommendation 1

Continuation of the consultation with local Aboriginal groups regarding the use of appropriate artwork, design and content be completed when draft content is completed. Included in this content, will be the use of local themes such as: the environment and the Aboriginal people, the river, food sources, the role of women in the food cycle and Aboriginal language.

Where possible, feedback and stories from all groups should be considered as part of the storyline for the interpretation.

Recommendation 2

That the urban design and interpretation be integrated to ensure that Aboriginal cultural heritage is integral to the overall design proposed, creating a cohesive and amalgamated voice for the story of Thompson Square Conservation Area. Where possible undertake further design initiatives with local Aboriginal artists to incorporate local animals, icons, and storylines into the interpretation device design so that Aboriginal cultural heritage is clearly visible throughout the Square. A goal of the design should be to capture the essence of Aboriginal life in an inclusive way.

Recommendation 3

Throughout the content for the interpretation the use of “active voices” should be implemented to convey stories, historical narratives and facts.

Recommendation 4

As the space and opportunity for interpretation within Thompson Square Conservation Area is limited, and there is the chance of cluttering the site, it is recommended that digital technology be utilised where possible to capture the full array of history available for the site. Programs including oral histories, photo collections, recollection of local stories, greater area histories (ie. Outside the project area), could be made available to a larger audience through the use of a number of emerging technologies.

Incorporating different forms of technologies into physical interpretation devices would enable people to seek out additional information to compliment and expand upon what is available on the interpretation devices. This element may also act as a conduit for all histories and help provide an integrated approach to available information.

Downloadable brochures and resources may also be included with a variety of information available.

Liaise with stakeholders, such as local Council, to try and strengthen the cultural heritage interpretation presented on their supported website. Where the opportunity is available assist with the development of more self-guided walking/driving tours that include Thompson Square Conservation Area and other local heritage assets.

Next Steps

The following table outlines the next steps Roads and Maritime will undertake prior to finalisation of the Interpretation Plan.

Action	Detail
Stakeholder consultation on the possible interpretation of the Aboriginal heritage	Roads and Maritime will consult with OEH and local Aboriginal groups on the specific media design, content, location and materials of interpretative measures. This will include further design initiatives with local Aboriginal artists.
Stakeholder consultation on the possible content of interpretation of the maritime salvage	Roads and Maritime will consult with OEH on the specific media design, content, location and materials of interpretative measures.
Stakeholder consultation on possible interpretation of the brick barrel drainage system.	Roads and Maritime will consult with OEH and the community on the possible interpretation of the brick barrel drain system, and the story of its construction and role within the early town of Windsor
Determine a suitable form of digital technology	Roads and Maritime will determine a suitable form of digital technology for the Thompson Square Conservation Area in consultation with Hawkesbury City Council (Council).
Consultation with Council	Roads and Maritime will consult with Council as they are integral in hosting and the maintenance of interpretative measures. Council will be consulted on the form and content of the interpretative measures, including the use of digital technology.
Review of Interpretation Plan (Stage 2)	Roads and Maritime will provide the Interpretation Plan (Stage 2) to OEH for review and comment.
Submit Interpretation Plan (Stage 2)	Roads and Maritime will submit the Interpretation Plan (Stage 2) to DP&E following completion of the archaeological salvage program and the consultation program.

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Appendix A – Interpretation Zone Inventory Sheets






Interpretation Zone 1 (IZ1) - South Thompson Square

Overview		Location
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located in South Thompson Square, on the corner of George Street and Thompson Square Road at the main entrance to Thompson Square Main interpretation zone within precinct Group of three markers; one wayfinding marker, two interpretation markers Mixture of visual and textual information 		
Local Themes	Potential Audiences	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location and place-making Thompson Square Hawkesbury River Darug people Aboriginal history and culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents/locals Tourists/visitors Working Professional Consumers and general 	
Expected Experience		Additional Interpretation Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Casual visitor possibly not interested in detail on the local area. Visitors looking for wayfinding information. Passerby possibly with only minimal intent to engage with interpretation. Engagement likely to be inadvertent. 		

IZ1 - South Thompson Square		
Marker 1a - Thompson Square location marker		
Themes	Visual Content	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location and place-making Thompson Square 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local map "You Are Here" arrow Major landmarks labelled Street names labelled 	
Marker Type		
 <p>Marker Type 1</p>	Text 1	Text 2
	<p>THOMPSON SQUARE</p>	<p>George Street Bridge Street Thompson Square Windsor Bridge</p>


IZ1 - South Thompson Square


Marker 1b & 1c - Thompson Square General History

Themes	Visual Content
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thompson Square Aboriginal history 	 <p>Survey of Thompson square, 1894 Charles Scrivener</p>  <p>Thompson square from the corner of present George and bridge streets c.1890s</p>  <p>A View of the town of Windsor, 1813 P. Slaeger</p>  <p>View of Thompson Square from the north, 1807 Evans water-colour.</p>
Marker Type	Text 1
 <p>Marker Type 2</p>	<p>The Buruberongal Tribe</p> <p>The banks of the Hawkesbury-Nepean River have a long history of visitation, use and occupation by Aboriginal people extending back over 40,000 years. As one of the main river systems on the eastern seaboard, it would have formed a likely route into the interior of Australia as part of its original colonisation by Aboriginal people. The recovery of a handful of simply stone tools at the base of the Cranebrook Terrace (near Penrith) represents the earliest archaeological evidence of Aboriginal people visiting the Sydney Basin as early as 43,000 years ago. At the site of the Windsor Museum, and at nearby Pitt Town, extensive scatters of stone artefacts on the ridge line overlooking the river reveal more substantial, and perhaps permanent, populations established by 36,000 years ago.</p> <p>Once established, the river corridor remained an important location for survival through the Last Glacial Maximum (24-18,000 years ago) – a time of intense aridity and cooling – with the river providing an important source of freshwater, food and stone resources. Archaeological evidence within Thompson Square shows significant visitation during this period. Occupation of the river became more intermittent during the last 10,000 years, as climate ameliorated, and allowed more of the Sydney Basin to be utilised.</p> <p>Early European explorers found people of the Buruberongal tribe, part of the wider Darug clan group to be living along the river. In the late 18th and early 19th Centuries, increasing European settlement of the river resulted in numerous conflicts and hostilities on both sides. Recovery of stone artefacts and modified glass within Thompson Square reveals that Aboriginal people visits the area during this time. However, by the 1840-50s evidence of Aboriginal people within the Windsor township is sparse until the contemporary period.</p>

Text 2	
<p>A Public Square</p> <p><i>Thompson Square is the only eighteenth-century civic square in Australia. Cleared of native vegetation after 1795, following on millennia of Aboriginal occupation, the land was kept "open", undeveloped space as part of the complex of public granaries, police and soldiers' barracks and the 1804 schoolhouse/chapel which lay on its perimeter. Macquarie's planned town of Windsor in the 1810s recognised the importance of the existing square, its 1795 beginnings and its key role in river-traffic. The stocks and pillory, the bell atop a post calling convicts to work, a muster point and the district's commercial hub were all here. From 1800 visiting governors stayed in the Government Cottage nearby. The major features of Thompson Square are still intact today. It still marks the limit of river navigation, it still has a wharf and it still maintains a river crossing at this point. The open space today preserves the open space that informally materialised in 1795 and the civic square that Macquarie envisioned in 1810.</i></p>	
Text 3	
<p>Heritage Status</p> <p>This site is listed on the State Heritage Register. It is considered as being significant in NSW for its historic values.</p>	






Interpretation Zone 2 (IZ2) - Northern Riverside

Overview		Location
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located in Macquarie Park on the north side of the river. There will be two groupings of markers: one at the entrance to the park/at the head of the roadbridge. The second grouping of three markers will be located at the waterfront. Each grouping will consist of one wayfinding marker, two interpretation markers. Mixture of visual and textual information. 		
Local Themes	Potential Audiences	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location and place-making Thompson Square Hawkesbury River Darug people Aboriginal history and culture Punt River Flooding Windsor Bridge Trade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents/locals Tourists/visitors Potentially a number of young audiences utilising the park. 	
Expected Experience		Additional Interpretation Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitors looking for wayfinding information. Footpath interpretation likely to be utilised by a passerby with only minimal intent to engage with interpretation. Engagement likely to be inadvertent. Riverside interpretation likely to be utilised by a local or visitor seeking specific or detailed information. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for sculptural installation within the park. Potential to reuse structural elements salvaged from the old Windsor Bridge. Potential for industrial-themed playground equipment. Potential to use digital media to support a "virtual tour" of the area.

IZ2 - Northern Riverside		
Marker 2a - Macquarie Park Location Marker		
Themes	Visual Content	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location and place-making Macquarie Park Thompson Square 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local map "You Are Here" arrow Major landmarks labelled Street names labelled 	
Marker Type		
 <p>Marker Type 1</p>	TEXT 1	Text 2
	MACQUARIE PARK	Bridge Street Wilberforce Road Freemans Reach Road Macquarie Park

IZ2 - Northern Riverside




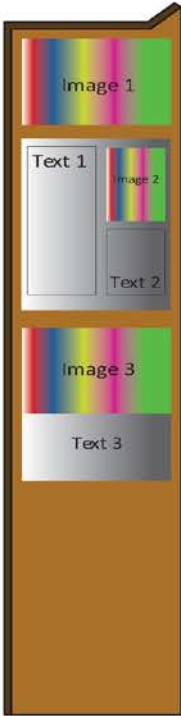
Marker 2b - Northern Riverside General History

Themes	Visual Content
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thompson Square Aboriginal history 	 <p>Water colour painting 1809 'The settlement of Green Hills' by G. W. Evans</p>  <p>Artefact excavated from Windsor 2017</p>  <p>Low level bridge with wharf on the left c.1888</p>  <p>Test excation near Windsor 2017</p>
Marker Type	Text 1
 <p>Marker Type 2</p>	<p>The Buruberongal Tribe</p> <p>The banks of the Hawkesbury-Nepean River have a long history of visitation, use and occupation by Aboriginal people extending back over 40,000 years. As one of the main river systems on the eastern seaboard, it would have formed a likely route into the interior of Australia as part of its original colonisation by Aboriginal people. The recovery of a handful of simply stone tools at the base of the Cranebrook Terrace (near Pennith) represents the earliest archaeological evidence of Aboriginal people visiting the Sydney Basin as early as 43,000 years ago. At the site of the Windsor Museum, and at nearby Pitt Town, extensive scatters of stone artefacts on the ridgeline overlooking the river reveal more substantial, and perhaps permanent, populations established by 36,000 years ago.</p> <p>Once established, the river corridor remained an important location for survival through the Last Glacial Maximum (24-18,000 years ago) – a time of intense aridity and cooling – with the river providing an important source of freshwater, food and stone resources. Archaeological evidence within Thompson Square shows significant visitation during this period. Occupation of the river became more intermittent during the last 10,000 years, as climate ameliorated, and allowed more of the Sydney Basin to be utilised.</p> <p>Early European explorers found people of the Buruberongal tribe, part of the wider Darug clan group to be living along the river. In the late 18th and early 19th Centuries, increasing European settlement of the river resulted in numerous conflicts and hostilities on both sides. Recovery of stone artefacts and modified glass within Thompson Square reveals that Aboriginal people visits the area during this time. However, by the 1840-50s evidence of Aboriginal people within the Windsor township is sparse until the contemporary period.</p>

<p>Text 2</p> <p>Interpretive Theme: Wilberforce, farming and industry</p> <p>You are standing on the northern side of the Hawkesbury River opposite Windsor and Thompson Square. It is here that George Evans positioned himself to paint his iconic watercolour views of the Green Hills opposite the river. However, the areas of Wilberforce and Freemans Reach are important to the development of the colony in their own right. The Upper Hawkesbury Valley has dominated the commercial production of turf for many years. Turf, unlike other produce like vegetables and maize, did not suffer terminal damage from flood water which continuously threatened this region. By the early twentieth century, it was producing half the turf in New South Wales and a quarter of all Australian turf. This area north of the river was almost entirely dedicated to turf farming and market gardens from the 1920s. The turf industry along the Hawkesbury quite close to Windsor occupies some 1500 hectares and around 60 farming companies.</p>	<p>Text 4</p> <p>Interpretive Theme: Thompson Square</p> <p>Opposite here, on the other side of the river, is Thompson Square. It is the only eighteenth-century civic square in Australia. The square was formalised by Governor Macquarie in 1810 along with public squares or commons at four other newly established towns along the Hawkesbury. However, Thompson Square is the only one still functioning as a public space. Various artists impressions and historic photographs of the square from this side of the river clearly demonstrate its evolution over time. Early on, it was dominated by public buildings like the government granaries, a military barracks, the schoolhouse and chapel, a stocks and a bell calling convicts to work. The district's commercial hub was all centralised here. Later, as the population, trade, transport and agriculture developed, so did the square. More private residences and shops began to border the site, many of which are still intact, and the informal tracks that scarred the open square made way for new alignments that supported new technology and infrastructure. With the bypass and demolition of the old Windsor Bridge, the open space of Thompson Square has been restored.</p> <p>Despite changes, Thompson Square has preserved an essential unity. It has been used as a place for public celebration, for Aboriginal people to shelter for the night in the Pavilion, as a 1930s miniature golf course, a children's playground and more recently, as the natural place for local memorials.</p>
<p>Text 3</p> <p>A Government Bridge</p> <p>While discussions of a road crossing at this location started as early as the 1840s, funding approval and allocation for a bridge at Windsor did not happen until 1871. The location was decided at the site of an existing "ferry" or rather, punt which had been in place for almost 60 years and was the only means of crossing the river at this location. Engineer-in-Chief for the waterways in NSW determined that because of the landscape, a bridge with wrought iron piles would need to be designed.</p> <p>Windsor Bridge was finally completed in 1874, constructed from 10 pairs of concrete-filled cylindrical iron piles with diagonal cross-bracing. The 455-foot long structure was decked with ironbark. The handrail was skilfully designed so that it could be let down outside the decking to protect the bridge from debris swept down by floods.</p> <p>The official opening on 20 August 1874 was 'the greatest gala day' ever witnessed by the Sydney Morning Herald correspondent. It was a 'a red-letter day in our history', with a public procession across the bridge, two bands playing music for the celebration, the triumphal arch crying 'WELCOME', the public holiday for everyone in the town and the bullock roasted whole in Thompson Square. The bridge improved trade, transport and travel for the whole region, making Windsor the primary commercial and administrative centre in the northwest.</p> <p>It was relatively common for Windsor Bridge to be inundated by the many small floods that affected the Hawkesbury River, as well as the larger ones. Therefore, the bridge deck level was raised in the 1890s. The modification of the old bridge involved placing two new cylinders atop the old piers, and refitting all the existing girders, braces and corbels wherever possible. A new 10cm (4 inch) tallowwood deck was laid diagonally, with new ironbark kerb logs and new iron hand-rails.</p>	<p>Text 5</p> <p>The Archaeological Salvage Program is to inform the interpretive content for this marker.</p>




IZ2 - Northern Riverside

Marker 2d - The Punt

Themes	Visual Content				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punt River Flooding 	 <p>The Punt approaching the Windsor landing, c. 1870</p>  <p>Plan of Windsor with the location and route of the Punt clearly marked in the river.</p>  <p>The Punt Masters House</p>				
Marker Type					
 <p>Marker Type 2</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Text 1</th><th>Text 2</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <p>The Punt</p> <p>Until a proper crossing was built colonists made use of a punt, a flat-bottomed timber barge with a pole to push it along and following the line of a fixed guideline. The first barge came in 1814 when John Howe purchased a punt that could carry both animals as well as passengers between the two sides of the river. The punt landing was just upstream of the site of the old Windsor Bridge. You might be able to see some of the original wrought iron bridge piers directly opposite on the other side of the river.</p> <p>The punt was operated by a punt master who occupied a small cottage between the garden of the Doctors' House and the riverbank. The house was substantially enlarged, shown in a map from the 1820s, perhaps indicating how important the service had become to the community. There is no longer any physical evidence of the punt masters house.</p> </td><td> <p>The Punt</p> <p>The punt was often unreliable. It could be out of action for weeks at a time as a result of floods, grounded on a sandbank at low tide, or swamped by restless cattle. When this happened, teams of cargo and travellers would line the road on either side of the river waiting impatiently for the service to return. The punt was both frustrating and risky! As you can imagine, when the original Windsor Bridge was opened on 20 August 1874, the redundant punt was symbolically removed from its crossing and moored just downstream. Luckily they kept it though, because when the level of the bridge was raised in 1896, the punt had to be brought briefly back into service before the temporary bridge was ready for use.</p> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Text 1	Text 2	<p>The Punt</p> <p>Until a proper crossing was built colonists made use of a punt, a flat-bottomed timber barge with a pole to push it along and following the line of a fixed guideline. The first barge came in 1814 when John Howe purchased a punt that could carry both animals as well as passengers between the two sides of the river. The punt landing was just upstream of the site of the old Windsor Bridge. You might be able to see some of the original wrought iron bridge piers directly opposite on the other side of the river.</p> <p>The punt was operated by a punt master who occupied a small cottage between the garden of the Doctors' House and the riverbank. The house was substantially enlarged, shown in a map from the 1820s, perhaps indicating how important the service had become to the community. There is no longer any physical evidence of the punt masters house.</p>	<p>The Punt</p> <p>The punt was often unreliable. It could be out of action for weeks at a time as a result of floods, grounded on a sandbank at low tide, or swamped by restless cattle. When this happened, teams of cargo and travellers would line the road on either side of the river waiting impatiently for the service to return. The punt was both frustrating and risky! As you can imagine, when the original Windsor Bridge was opened on 20 August 1874, the redundant punt was symbolically removed from its crossing and moored just downstream. Luckily they kept it though, because when the level of the bridge was raised in 1896, the punt had to be brought briefly back into service before the temporary bridge was ready for use.</p>
Text 1	Text 2				
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IZ2 - Northern Riverside



Marker 2e - The Old Windsor Bridge

Themes	Visual Content	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windsor Bridge Transport 	 	
Marker Type		
 <p>Marker Type 2</p>	Text 1	Text 2
	<p>The need for a bridge</p> <p>For sixty years, the Hawkesbury community made use of a privately operated punt to cross the river. As the area grew and colonial settlement expanded, the demands on cross-river transport grew in parallel. It was clear that the community had outgrown the modest Howe's punt. In 1864 the Windsor community met at the School of Arts to petition the local member to bring forward the proposal for the NSW Government to build them a road bridge. The proposal was made but shelved by several Governments until 1871.</p>	<p>Bridge Construction</p> <p>When bridge construction finally began in 1872, it took almost two years to install the piles, with some of the columns reaching an average depth of 12 metres below surface. The design of the piles themselves involved ten wrought iron cylindrical columns filled with concrete, held together with a thick steel web and channel iron diagonal bracing. The 138 metre (455-foot) long bridge was decked with 5-inch ironbark planking. The handrail was skilfully designed so that it could be let down outside the decking to protect the bridge from debris swept down by floods. The Work was delayed by three floods over eight metres and 40 lesser floods but at long last on the 20th of August 1874, the bridge opened with a parade and celebration in the Square, 'the greatest gala day we have ever witnessed'. The children had a party in nearby paddock with cakes and a Punch and Judy show, while a whole bullock was roasted on a spit and fed the adult multitude.</p>

Text 3	
<p>Bridge Modifications</p> <p><i>The low-level bridge was regularly covered by flood-waters, but after twenty-one years its carriageway was raised by 2.4 metres. The new timber beams were brought by rail to Windsor in 1895, and carted down to Thompson Square. When the bridge was again remodelled in 1921-1922, reinforced concrete replaced the wooden decking. The long girders were cast on the bank of the river and the bridge remained an early exemplar of this innovative use of concrete for almost a century until it was demolished after the completion of the present bridge a short distance downstream.</i></p>	
Text 4	
<p>A Direct Link</p> <p><i>The provision of a bridge across the Hawkesbury at Windsor greatly improved the position of those who lived on the farms around Wilberforce and Ebenezer, giving ready access to Windsor Railway Station and its direct links to Parramatta and Sydney. It also joined the Windsor road system to the Putty Road, leading to the Hunter, where many Hawkesbury families had settled since the early nineteenth century and which was developing industrial importance through the coal industry.</i></p>	

IZ2 - Northern Riverside

Marker 2f - Windsor, Transport and Trade

Themes	Visual Content	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thompson Square Trade Transport Agriculture 	 <p>Detail of George Evan's 1809 painting of Green Hills, showing many small cottages as well as civic buildings that bordered Thompson Square.</p>	
Marker Type		
 <p>Marker Type 2</p>	Text 1	Text 2
	<p>A Civic Square</p> <p><i>Thompson Square dominates the foreshore directly opposite. All the earliest Hawkesbury settlers frequented Thompson Square regularly, getting provisions, storing the grain they wished to sell to the government or seeking the help of the constables, the military or the magistrate. Many landed in the vicinity of Thompson Square in their small boats. The growing number of government officers was centred in the square and ordinary settlers were welcome at the barracks and even allowed to work alongside the military under some circumstances.</i></p>	<p>Transport</p> <p><i>The square became the focus of a growing overland transportation of produce, with settlers coming from their farms or from Sydney and Parramatta along the Old Hawkesbury Road, as improvements were made to it. Some began transporting produce to and from Sydney by wagons from 1798. When the road had terminated on the Sydney side of South Creek, the foot and cart traffic reaching the storehouses and granaries in the square had been relatively light, so the bulk of goods and people continued to come from the river. The volume and direction of the pedestrians began to increase from the south once Andrew Thompson built the first bridge across South Creek in 1802. From then, an increasing volume of carts and later carriages crossed South Creek on Thompson's land and wound their way up to the top of the ridge just above Thompson Square where many of the Government buildings would have been. Despite these improvements, the river remained the cheapest and preferred means of goods transport.</i></p>


Text 3

Life in the Square

As more and more workers were needed to be employed by the Government for the civic facilities in the Square, the number of additional small private houses grew and the remaining open space was, by 1807, completely barren of trees. Gradually, the area took on the look of a small village, with the Thompson Square at its centre, increasingly populated. Many of these colonial buildings, especially the private residences, remain around the Square, adding to its unique historic built landscape.

DRAFT

Interpretation Zone 3 (IZ3) - Top of Stairs

Overview		Location
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretation in this zone will focus on major flooding events, with a specific reference to highest recorded flood of 1867. This interpretation would involve two main elements - one which is sculptural and esoteric indicating the level of the highest recorded flood. The second will be an information panel associated to the sculptural piece. 		
Local Themes	Potential Audiences	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hawkesbury River Flooding Agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents/locals Tourists/visitors 	
Expected Experience		Additional Interpretation Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Likely to be utilised by a local or visitor seeking specific or detailed information Visitors looking for wayfinding information. As the marker is located on a footpath, engagement is likely to be brief, passing. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interesting landscaping bring focus to more esoteric interpretation elements. Digital media supporting virtual tours of historic landscapes.

IZ3 - Top of Stairs

Marker 3a - Flood

Themes

- Hawkesbury River
- Flooding
- Agriculture

Marker Type



Marker Type 2

Visual Content



The flood of 1816 viewed from the top of Thompson Square.



Eather family clinging to roof

Members of the Eather family clinging desperately to the roof of their cottage during the 1867 flood. Twelve Eathers, including ten children, drowned. Illustrated Sydney News, 16 July 1867, p.27.



Windsor bridge under floodc. 1920
Kurrajong-comleroy Historical Society
Photo Collection

Text 1

Flooding in Windsor

Major flooding has played an essential role in the development of Thompson Square and surrounds, affecting the topographical development of the Upper Hawkesbury region for millennia and shaping cultural, economic and social history since Aboriginal occupation. Flooding plays a bitter-sweet role in the life of Windsor, being the source of economic and agricultural abundance as well as the cause of devastation and loss.

Text 2


Flooding and Agriculture

For millennia, flood waters deposit rich alluvial silt over the Upper Hawkesbury Valley, creating highly fertile lowlands on either side of Hawkesbury River. Fertile agricultural land was a key driver in the 1794 European settlement of the region, when the soils of the flood-plain were considered far superior to the land already being exploited in Sydney, Parramatta and Toongabbie to far less success. The price for agricultural prosperity, however, was recurrent inundation resulting in the loss of farms, stock, produce and homes in the destructive flood waters. In some instances, lives also perished.

Text 3	
<p>The 1867 Flood</p> <p>Since European settlement there have been 24 major floods recorded at Windsor. These impacted Thompson Square in various capacities, altering its topography, damaging its wharves and inundating its buildings. Above the bridge, a blue marker shows the height of the greatest flood in recorded history at this location, which peaked at 19.25 metres in 1867. The event submerged the entirety of Thompson Square and was high enough to infiltrate the 1815 Macquarie Arms Hotel located at the top of the square on George Street. An 1867 newspaper article described the historic event, stating "Places which, since the settlement of the colony, have never been known to be flooded are now lost to view". This scene is visualised in an 1867 illustration which shows a vast sea of water extending from Thompson Square beyond the river towards the foothills of the Blue Mountains.</p>	
Text 4	
<p>Interpretive Theme: Flooding</p> <p>The floods have come at irregular intervals with long periods of relative quiet, but they have tended to group, first between 1799 and 1819, then in the 1860s and 1870s, again at the beginning of the twentieth century, followed by an intermission until the 1950s and 1960s. The most recent high floods were in 1978, 1988 and 1990. Whilst the cumulative physical impact of flooding on Thompson Square is difficult to quantify, the deposition, removal and re-deposition of material by floodwaters has impacted upon the archaeological remains from both the colonial and pre-colonial periods.</p>	

IZ3 - Top of Stairs	
Marker 3b - 1867 Flood Level Indicator	
Themes	Visual Content
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hawkesbury River Flooding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be no visual element to this marker. Its meaning will be obscure and esoteric but supported by a secondary supplementary marker with a more developed narrative.
Marker Type	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sculptural marker with a moving / stirring / agitating element demonstrating the level of the highest flood level. 	

Interpretation Zone 4 (IZ4) - Abutment and Stairs

Overview		Location
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretation in this zone will involve multiple markers - the abutment treatment itself and several supporting elements running parallel. The abutment interpretation would be an esoteric tile treatment, representing the line of major flood events since 1795. A corresponding marker will be located on low plinths running parallel to the stairs and abutment. Each marker would present a quote sourced from primary resources that relate to the flooding events. 		
Local Themes	Potential Audiences	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hawkesbury River Flooding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents/locals Tourists/visitors 	
Expected Experience		Additional Interpretation Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief engagement. Casual surveillance. The assemblage of markers aims to trigger an emotional and evocative relationship of audiences to the flooding events. Quick grabs of provocative quotes can be quickly absorbed by transit-ing audiences. 		

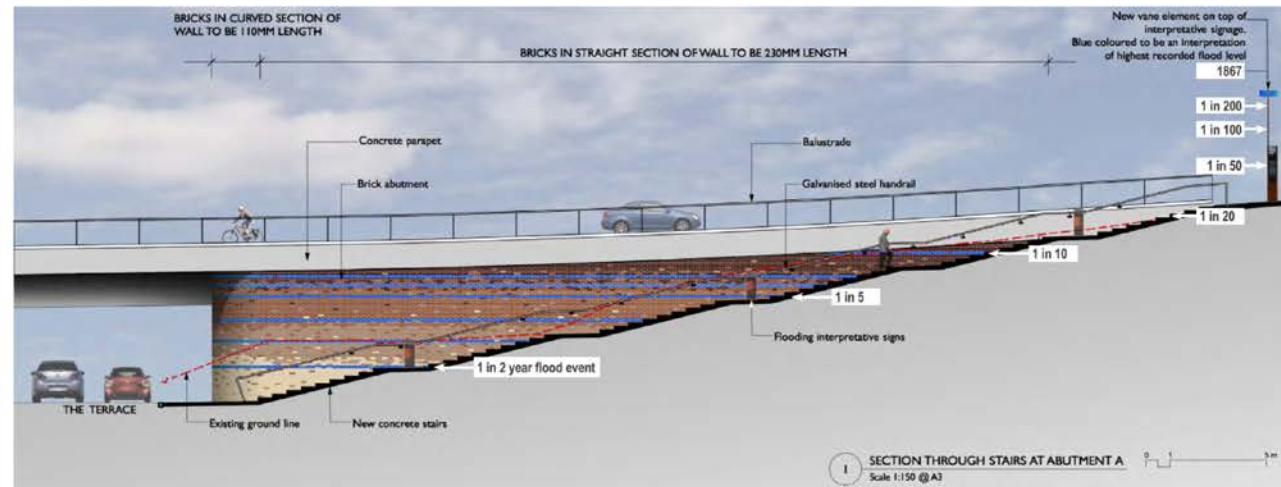
IZ4 - Abutment

Marker 4a - Abutment Treatment

Overview

- The abutment treatment would consist of horizontal tiled bands to represent major historic flood events
- Glazed brick finish

Visual Content




Draft elevation plan of abutment treatment

Themes


- Hawkesbury River
- Flooding



Representation of abutment and stair treatment

IZ4 - Abutment	
Marker 4b - Flood quotes	
Themes	Text
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flooding 	<p>Quote 1 <i>"The rise in the river became alarming"</i></p> <p>Quote 2 <i>"The settlers, with their families, had from necessity abandoned their houses"</i></p> <p>Quote 3 <i>"The water is now rising at the rate of one foot per hour"</i></p> <p>Quote 4 <i>"Several lives have been lost but the exact number is not known yet"</i></p> <p>Quote 5 <i>"The town of Windsor itself is almost entirely submerged"</i></p> <p>Quote 6 <i>"some places are merely recognisable by means of the chimneys and roofs of the higher houses projecting above the surface of the water"</i></p> <p>Quote 7 <i>"The town of Windsor itself is almost entirely submerged"</i></p> <p>Quote 8 <i>"some places are merely recognisable by means of the chimneys and roofs of the higher houses projecting above the surface of the water"</i></p>
Marker Type	
 <p>Marker Type 4</p>	

Interpretation Zone 5 (IZ5) - Carpark

Overview		Location
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This interpretation zone will be dedicated to Andrew Thompson As the site of Andrew Thompson's lease, there is opportunity to interpret Thompson's legacy as the colony's first ex-convict magistrate and important individual in the early development of Mulgrave Hills. 		
Local Themes	Potential Audiences	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thompson Square Andrew Thompson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents/locals Tourists/visitors 	
Expected Experience		Additional Interpretation Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Likely to be utilised by a local or visitor seeking specific or detailed information As the marker is located on a footpath, engagement is likely to be brief and passing. 		

IZ5 - Carpark

Marker 5a - Andrew Thompson

Themes

- Thompson Square
- Andrew Thompson

Marker Type



Marker Type 2

Visual Content



Plan of Windsor showing the October 1977 lease given to ex-convict constable Andrew Thompson in the civic square



Evan's watercolour of Thompson Square, 1807.



Andrew Thompson's house at McGraths Hill, called the Red House. Drawn c.1813.

Text 1

Thompson the Convict

Andrew Thompson was one of the most prominent and well-respected citizens of the early colony, even though he arrived in New South Wales as a teenage convict in 1792 for stealing cloth. As a reward for his ability, honesty and hardwork, Thompson was given an accelerated sentence pardon and quickly became a constable in Greens Hills. By 1796, he lived in a small cottage within Thompson Square, then known as the Government Domain, and by 1799 had leased an acre of land adjacent to the cottage. Over the next two decades, Thompson built a small fortune for himself, acquiring a large estate at McGraths Hill and building a barge-bridge over South Creek, as well as a large store, brewery and salt works. With over 120 employees, the entrepreneur was the largest single employer in the Hawkesbury region by 1806.

Text 2

Thompson and Macquarie

On the 14th January 1810, Governor Macquarie appointed Andrew Thompson as the first ex-convict magistrate in the colony. As magistrate, Thompson would advise Macquarie on the creation of several new towns in the Hawkesbury region in an aim to solidify the region's role as Sydney's bread-basket. This appointment was in keeping with Macquarie's controversial emancipist policy which saw ex-convicts rewarded for good behaviour and genuine reform. In addition to Thompson's economic prosperity and social status, he had demonstrated reform through his heroic efforts during some of the highest floods in the Hawkesbury. During the floods of 1806 and 1809, he used his own boats and personally helped rescue hundreds of settlers stranded on the roofs of their crumbling homes. The relief efforts of the 1809 flood would eventually lead to his early death, a mere two months before the town of 'Windsor' was officially proclaimed.

Text 3

Interpretive Theme: Andrew Thompson




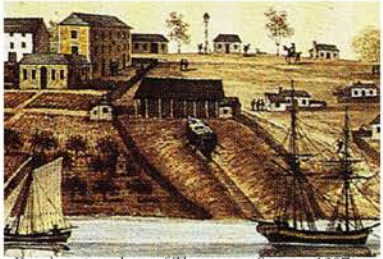

Thompson and Distinction

Governor Macquarie made Thompson's burial the very first in the St Matthew's Anglican Church yard, paying for an elaborate memorial with text composed by Macquarie himself. Macquarie also paid homage to Thompson in the most permanent way by naming the pre-existing civic square after the ex-convict. The honour of being the very first ex-convict magistrate places Andrew Thompson in a unique position in Australia's history, and gives him a significance beyond the distinction of his own contributions to the survival of both the Hawkesbury district and the early colony. 'Thompson Square' is therefore a fitting memorial to one of the most able Hawkesbury residents who played a pivotal role in the establishment of Windsor.


DRAFT

IZ6 - Wharf

Marker 6a - Wharfage

Themes	Visual Content	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maritime archaeology Wharfage River Trade 	<div>  <p>The wharf and the bridge soon after the bridge had been raised in 1895.</p> </div> <div>  <p>The wreck of the 1814 wharf after the 1816 flood.</p> </div> <div>  <p>Windsor wharf in the early 20th century</p> </div> <div>  <p>Evan's watercolour of Thompson Square, 1807.</p> </div>	
Marker Type	Text 1	Text 2
<div>  </div>	<p>River Trade</p> <p><i>The Hawkesbury River was of paramount importance to the European colony of Windsor, used to transport produce from the fruitful region of the Upper Hawkesbury Valley to the early colony in Sydney. Wheat and maize grown on the farms along the river from Richmond down to Sackville were brought in rowing boats by the farmers and stored in granaries here at Thompson Square. The produce was then transported downstream to Sydney by small ocean-going boats. As the government wharf at Thompson Square was the only landing facility on this section of the river in the early days of settlement, it was a vital nexus between land and water for the transfer of goods, produce and people.</i></p>	<p>The 1814 Wharf</p> <p><i>In 2008 archaeologists undertook a maritime archaeological survey of the location of the 1814 wharf on the southern side of the Hawkesbury River. The search was conducted to investigate if relics relating to the former wharf were present or had the potential to be present on the riverbed. The survey identified stone ballast and several logs which are likely to be evidence of the earlier wharf structure. As no aboveground remains of any of any early wharves survive, the discovery of these archaeological remains was particularly important for understanding the maritime history of Thompson Square.</i></p>

Interpretation Zone 6 (IZ6) - Wharf

Overview		Location
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This interpretation zone will be dedicated to wharfage at this site. In consideration of the many historical layers of wharfage at this location, and riverbank usage, there is an opportunity to interpret the importance of the river and its usage. Additionally, the information is supported by the archaeological record, which can be used in developing the interpretation. 		
Local Themes	Potential Audiences	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maritime archaeology Wharfage River Trade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents/locals Tourists/visitors Working Professional 	
Expected Experience		Additional Interpretation Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Likely to be utilised by a local or visitor seeking specific or detailed information. Visitors looking for wayfinding information. 		

Text 3

Wharves at Windsor



As is the nature of the Hawkesbury River, flooding regularly destroyed wharfage at Thompson Square. The first wharf, built in 1795, was destroyed by flood within four years. Although no new wharf is recorded until 1814, boats were still able to pull up on the shore above the tide-mark to deliver produce. By 1815, a new wharf had been built and enlarged. The structure was quite elaborate, running along the edge of the riverbank for 90 metres, which made it four times longer than the first wharf. It also projected 10 metres into the river and was supported by over 500 large timber piles.

During the 1816 flood, the government wharf was again damaged whilst the riverbank came alive with small rescue vessels and salvaged stock. It was substantially rebuilt under the supervision of well-known architect Francis Greenway between 1816 and 1820. Using early historic maps, the 1814-1820 wharf was located by archaeologists in the water beside the riverbank, just west up the river from where you are standing. During their physical investigations, archaeologists discovered the surviving timber remains and iron bolts of this early colonial structure.

When the railway reached Windsor in 1864, the river trade to Thompson Square grew as farmers brought their own produce to the railway and as steam boats brought increasing numbers of passengers. After Windsor Bridge was built in 1874, the wharf was moved a little closer to the bridge.


Siltation of the river now prevents large boats from reaching Windsor, so the continuing use of the newest wharf by leisure boats is but a shadow of the days when there were anywhere between 10 to 20 boats stationed in the vicinity of the wharf at one time. Nevertheless, the newest wharf remains an essential reminder of the commercial importance of 19th Century Thompson Square and the river in general.

Interpretation Zone 7 (IZ7) - Riverside Viewing Area

Overview		Location
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This interpretation device type would involve at least three markers. Each marker's content would deal with a separate theme/subject matter. The marker would be mounted to one of the three balustrades forming the viewing area. 		
Local Themes	Potential Audiences	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hawkesbury River Darug people Aboriginal history and culture Archaeological evidence Built heritage Historical archaeology Thompson Square 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents/locals Tourists/visitors Working Professional 	
Expected Experience		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be utilised by a local or visitor seeking specific or detailed information Recreational visitors of the Riverwalk. People on their lunchbreak. 		

IZ7 - Riverside Viewing Area

Marker 7a - Aboriginal Archaeology

Themes	Visual Content
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal history Aboriginal archaeology River and natural environment 	<p>The Archaeological Salvage Program is to inform the interpretive content on this panel.</p>  <p>'A View of hawkesbury and the Blue Moutains' 1815 etched by W. Preston.</p>
Marker Type	Text 1
	<p>The Buruberongal Tribe</p> <p><i>The banks of the Hawkesbury-Nepean River have a long history of visitation, use and occupation by Aboriginal people extending back over 40,000 years. As one of the main river systems on the eastern seaboard, it would have formed a likely route into the interior of Australia as part of its original colonisation by Aboriginal people. The recovery of a handful of simply stone tools at the base of the Cranebrook Terrace (near Penrith) represents the earliest archaeological evidence of Aboriginal people visiting the Sydney Basin as early as 43,000 years ago. At the site of the Windsor Museum, and at nearby Pitt Town, extensive scatters of stone artefacts on the ridgeline overlooking the river reveal more substantial, and perhaps permanent, populations established by 36,000 years ago.</i></p> <p><i>Once established, the river corridor remained an important location for survival through the Last Glacial Maximum (24-18,000 years ago) – a time of intense aridity and cooling – with the river providing an important source of freshwater, food and stone resources. Archaeological evidence within Thompson Square shows significant visitation during this period. Occupation of the river became more intermittent during the last 10,000 years, as climate ameliorated, and allowed more of the Sydney Basin to be utilised.</i></p> <p><i>Early European explorers found people of the Buruberongal tribe, part of the wider Darug clan group to be living along the river. In the late 18th and early 19th Centuries, increasing European settlement of the river resulted in numerous conflicts and hostilities on both sides. Recovery of stone artefacts and modified glass within Thompson Square reveals that Aboriginal people visits the area during this time. However, by the 1840-50s evidence of Aboriginal people within the Windsor township is sparse until the contemporary period.</i></p>

TEXT 2	Text 3 cont.
<p>Resources</p> <p>There was a wide range of resources for Aboriginal people to use and exploit along the river's bank. Of greatest importance was freshwater from the river itself. With the onset of the Last Glacial Maximum, the availability of water across the Sydney Basin would have been limited, with large numbers of minor rivers and water bodies drying up during this time. However, the Hawkesbury-Nepean River was fed from the Blue Mountain, and would have maintained a constant flow. It was therefore likely one of the few rivers in this region that remained active, and it is no coincidence that the greatest archaeological evidence of Aboriginal people at Thompson Square is during this time. In addition to water was the plentiful supply of large stone river cobbles found along the edges of the river, and used in the production of stone tools for hunting, gathering and food preparation. A number of large unmodified cobbles were recovered from the excavations, as well as fragments from others that had been smashed to pieces for further refinement by Aboriginal people.</p> <p>There was also a wide range of food available along the river's edge. In addition to the numerous wallabies, possums and other animals and birds that would have used the river as drinking source, there was an abundance of freshwater mussels (<i>Velesunio</i> sp.), fish, eels, and cah-bro - a marine wood-borer, commonly known as a shipworm (<i>Teredo</i> sp.). There were also numerous plant species providing both shelter and food, including yams, fern roots, figs, native cherry, goobung, wild parsnip, wattleseeds and apple berries along with many others. Analysis of sediment from the archaeological excavations also found some evidence of an <i>Aracauria</i> sp. - a type of evergreen coniferous tree, which in other parts of Australia produces edible nuts (e.g. the Bunya Pine).</p>	<p>quest of animals. He asked for a hatchet and one of ours was offered to him, but he preferred one of their own making. With this tool he cut a small notch in the tree he intended to climb, about two feet and a half above the ground, in which he fixed the great toe of his left foot, and sprung upwards, at the same time embracing the tree with his left arm. In an instant he had cut a second notch for his right toe on the other side of the tree into which he sprung, and thus, alternately cutting on each side, he mounted to the height of twenty feet in nearly as short a space as if he had ascended by a ladder, although the bark of the tree was quite smooth and slippery and the trunk four feet in diameter and perfectly strait. To us it was a matter of astonishment, but to him it was sport, for while employed thus he kept talking to those below and laughing immoderately. He descended with as much ease and agility as he had raised himself. [TENCH]</p> <p>Philip also observed interesting medical procedures:</p> <p>Colebe had been wounded below the left breast with a fiz-gig [fishing-spear], and though it must have been done many years back, or the wound must have been slight, as it was difficult to discover any scar, yet it was supposed he felt some pain, though it probably might be occasioned by the straps of his knapsack; however, the youngest of the two strangers was applied to for relief.</p> <p>He began the ceremony by taking a mouthful of water, which he squirted on the part affected, and then applying his mouth, he began to suck as long as he could without taking breath; this seemed to make him sick, and when he rose up, (for his patient was sitting on the ground) he walked about for a few minutes, and then began to suck again, till it was again necessary for him to take breath: this was repeated three times, and he seemed, by drawing in his stomach, to feel the pain he had drawn from the breast of his patient; and having picked up a bit of stick or stone, which he did with so little caution that several of the party saw him, he pretended to take something out of his mouth and throw it into the river. He certainly did throw something away, which must be what he picked up; but Colebe, after the ceremony was over, said it was what he had sucked from his breast, which some understood to be two barbs of a fiz-gig, as he made use of the word <i>Bul-ler-doo-ul</i>; but Governor Phillip was of opinion he meant two pains.</p>
Text 3	
<p>Early Aboriginal and European Interactions</p> <p>There are a number of interactions documented between Aboriginal people and early Europeans. The earliest is that of Governor Arthur Phillip who in 1791 undertook an expedition to ascertain whether the Hawkesbury and Nepean Rivers were connected. Between 11 and 16 April, Phillip's party of 22 people, including two Aboriginal guides (Colbee and Boladeree) reached the river in the vicinity of South Creek. Upon their arrival, they came across a man called Yellomundee and his son Deeimba in a canoe. Over subsequent days, Phillip learnt more about the tribe along the river.</p> <p>They seated themselves at our fire, partook of our biscuit and pork, drank from our canteens, and heard our guns going off around them without betraying any symptom of fear, distrust or surprise. On the opposite bank of the river they had left their wives and several children, with whom they frequently discoursed; and we observed that these last manifested neither suspicion or uneasiness of our designs towards their friends. [TENCH]</p> <p>...the tribe of Buruberongal, to which these men belonged, live chiefly by hunting, the women are employed in fishing, and our party were told, that they caught large mullet in the river. [HUNTER]</p> <p>...we were able to learn from them was that they depend but little on fish, as the river yields only mullets, and that their principal support is derived from small animals which they kill, and some roots (a species of wild yam chiefly) which they dig out of the earth. [TENCH]</p> <p>Gombeeree [another Aboriginal man met on the expedition] gave a specimen of their manner of climbing trees in</p>	

Text 4	Text 5
<p>Conflict and Hostility</p> <p><i>Following initial interactions, hostilities between European settlers and Aboriginal people began, as the latter were denied access to the resources they depended on for survival. Crops, fencing and permanent buildings began to rapidly create a new landscape. European diseases and attacks on Aboriginal people took their toll on the local community. Aboriginal people rallied against their ill treatment and retaliated by burning and ransacking the crops of colonisers and spearing the animals taking over the lands formally grazed by kangaroos. Aboriginal attacks were followed in turn by European revenge attacks which started a cycle of violence.</i></p> <p><i>The peaks in conflict coincided with periods of colonisation intensification along the river and its tributaries, initially with first occupation in the mid-1790s and the second coinciding with the expansion of Europeans into additional lands in the years 1803-1804. What is said to be the first recorded instance of Hawkesbury River racial violence occurred in 1794 when an Aboriginal boy was murdered:</i></p> <p><i>'... the settlers tied his hands and feet together, and dragging him several times through a fire, threw him in the river and shot him'.</i></p> <p><i>Aboriginal people retaliated, killing a local colonist and a convict, before eight Aboriginal people were subsequently shot. Five years later, five white colonists appeared before a court charged with the murder of two teenage Aboriginal boys in the Hawkesbury district. Though the men were found guilty, the panel of judges was divided and referred the case to London for instruction. Ultimately, all accused were later acquitted. Governor Hunter made note of the event in 1800 when he reported:</i></p> <p><i>'Two native boys have been most barbarously murdered by several of the settlers at the Hawkesbury River, not with standing orders have upon this subject been repeatedly given pointing out in what circumstances only they were warranted in punishing with severity'.</i></p>	<p>The Archaeological Salvage Program is to inform any further interpretive content for this marker.</p>

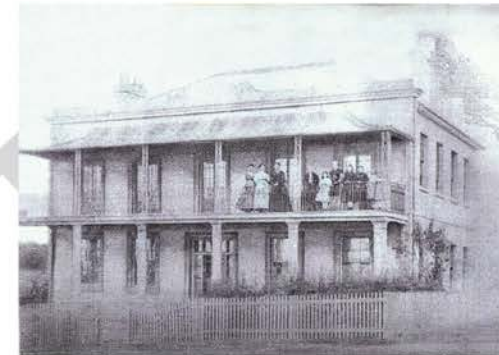
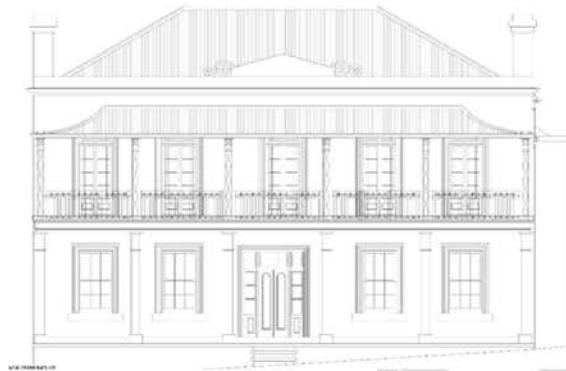
IZ7 - Riverside Viewing Area

Marker 7b - Built Heritage

Overview

- A mixed data and visual marker showing built heritage within the square.
- Panarama of architectural line representations of buildings present in the Square. Most prominent buildings will have a small supplementary information.

Visual Content



Early photography, date unknown (Source: CAWB)



Photograph of the Hawkesbury Regional Museum, c.1890s (Source: NSW State Library, digital order number d1_06257).

Themes

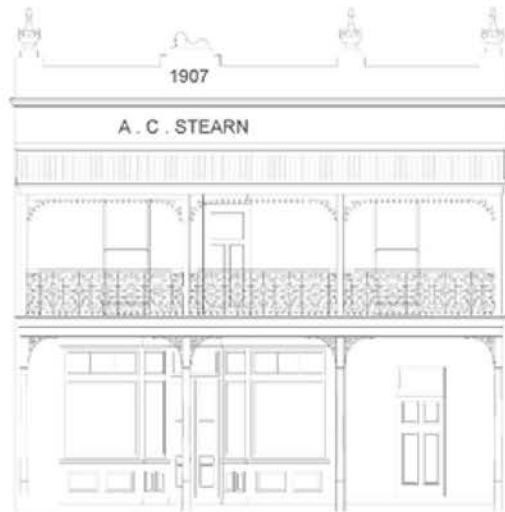
- Thompsons Square
- Built Heritage
- Architecture



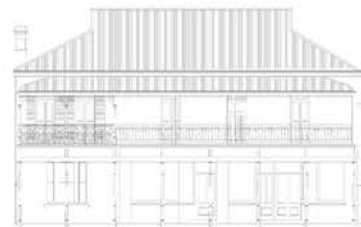
Photograph of Thompson Square from the corner of the present George and Bridge Streets, c.1890s. The Doctor's House is shown at the end of the building row lining Thompson Square (Source: NSW State Library, digital order number d1_06257).



George Street, date unknown (Source: State Library of NSW, Mitchell Library, Small Picture File, digital order number d1_26975)



George Street, c1926 (Source: State Library of NSW, Mitchell Library, digital order number a106382h)




Macquarie Arms Hotel in the 1870s (Source: NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, SHR listing sheet for Macquarie Arms Hotel)

The south-west side of Thompson Square in 1827, with detailed footprints of several buildings showing the new building allotments and Macquarie Arms hotel within Lot 28 (Source: White, Town of Windsor, 1827, SRNSW, Map SZ524).







Text 1	
<p>Interpretive Theme: Explore the Square's Built Heritage</p> <p><i>There are a number of highly significant historic buildings in Thompson Square, all of which form part of the State heritage listed Thompson Square Heritage Conservation Area. The union of buildings within the conservation area is a reflection of the historic development of the site and contribute significantly to the sense of age and identity of the square. Look out for them as you explore the square.</i></p> <p>Macquarie Arms Hotel - 81 George Street</p> <p><i>The Macquarie Arms is of exceptional heritage significance as the only intact, and most substantial, building of the Macquarie Era in Thompson Square. Further to this, the building is said to be the oldest Inn's in Australia. Built between 1812-1815, the building was constructed by emancipist Richard Fitzgerald in response to specific directions from Governor Macquarie. The building continues to be widely recognised for its importance to the understanding of settlement, urban design and architecture during the colonial period, while its historic associations carry strong cultural messages of the period's society and government. Maintaining its original function, the hotel is still a licensed premises.</i></p> <p>The Doctor's House - 1-3 Thompson Square</p> <p><i>The Doctor's House is an elegant two-storey sandstone and brick Victorian terrace nearest the river, built in 1844 to replace a former inn. The building has historic associations with the medical profession in Windsor's history, and is significant for its contribution to the aesthetic and historic values of Thompson Square.</i></p> <p>Hawkesbury Museum - 7 Thompson Square</p> <p><i>The Hawkesbury Regional Museum building is a high-quality Georgian style house which relates to the early development of Windsor in the post-Macquarie Era. It is one of Thompson Square's earliest surviving buildings, having been built in 1835 by prominent local businessman John Howe. The building is significant in its own right and for its contribution to the aesthetic and historic values of Thompson Square.</i></p> <p>George Street Shops</p> <p><i>At the corner of Bridge and George Streets is the remaining Georgian single-storey portion of Moses Bakery built in 1820. It was extended with the dominating two-storey Victoria terrace at 64-68 George Street. To its right is a 1920s garage that replaced an inn. The A.C. Stearn building was built as a two-storey commercial centre in 1907 and often used to store fireworks. These commercial buildings speak to a period of change from the early to mid-20th century, when there was less concern with the colonial period of the study area and a desire for modern buildings to serve a growing local centre.</i></p> <p>Lilburndale Hall - 10 Old Bridge Road</p> <p><i>Lilburndale Hall was a built as a private home for Dr Dowe in 1856. By 1860, it was used as a school and passed into the hands of Dr Callaghan by 1867. When Dr Callaghan moved to the The Doctors House across the square in 1903, the building came into the ownership of a local politician named Brinsley Hall. After Brinsley Hall left, the site became a maternity hospital under the name of 'Craigneish'. It underwent various commercial uses after 1934 and today remains as an important historic element in Thompson Square.</i></p>	

Interpretation Zone 8 (IZ8) - The Terrace

Overview		Location
		
Local Themes	Potential Audiences	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hawkesbury River Darug people Aboriginal history and culture Archaeological evidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents/locals Tourists/visitors Working Professional 	
Expected Experience		Additional Interpretation Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Likely to be utilised by a local or visitor seeking specific or detailed information Recreational visitors of the Riverwalk Visitors looking for wayfinding information. 		

IZ8 - The Terrace

Marker 8a - Aboriginal History

Themes	Visual Content
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal history River and natural environment 	   <p>View of Thompson Square from the northern end of the Windsor Bridge, 1888</p> 
Marker Type	Text 1
Marker Type 2	<p>Excavations</p> <p>Archaeological excavations within Thompson Square have revealed a complex history of natural deposits, within which the remains of past Aboriginal occupation was recovered. Ten different sedimentary strata were found above the under-lying clay bedrock that constrains the shape of Thompson Square. At the base of the sequence, some 2-3m below the modern day ground surface was a thick coarse sand alluvium. This was deposited over 80,000 years ago, probably during a geological period known as the Eemian when the climate was comparable with present day and the sea-level slightly higher. Extensive sections of this deposit remained exposed for tens of millennia and formed the natural surface upon which Aboriginal people visited and lived in many parts of the square. Over-lying this deposit in several places was a thick dune composed of fine sand, clays and silts that was lodged against the steep slopes of Thompson Square by strong westerly winds during the Last Glacial Maximum – a period of significant global cooling that resulted in very arid conditions in Australia. It is during this climatic downturn that Aboriginal people appear to first use the river in this locality, with a dense band of stone artefacts recovered from the surface of the alluvium and within the dune deposits and dating to 27-17,000 years. This evidence suggests that Thompson Square and surrounds formed a 'refuge' for Aboriginal people during this time, exploiting freshwater, food and stone resources associated with the river. Occupation of the river became more irregular during the last 10,000 years, a geological era known as the Holocene. Improving climatic conditions opened up the surrounding Cumberland Plain to more intense occupation, while the stone resources along the river were vanishing.</p>

<p>Text 2</p> <p>Archaeological Evidence</p> <p>Archaeological evidence reveals two main periods of activity within Thompson Square at 7-5,000 and 3,500-200 years ago. The earlier phase of occupation is reflected in a layer of stone artefacts near the surface of the dune deposit, showing exploitation of good quality stone cobbles from the river's edge. This deposit likely shows one of the last uses of the site at the time, with changing sea-levels resulting in higher river levels at Windsor and an inundation of the stone beds. More recent activity was found just below the modern surface, reflecting extensive low energy flooding of much of lower Thompson Square and the northern bank of the river. To the north, excavations down to 4m suggest that these large-scale floods began some 6,500 years ago and continued until just prior to European arrival. Stone artefacts within this deposit are characterised as 'Bondaian' and show a change in visitation and behaviour by Aboriginal people to the river, with a greater reliance on stone material from silcrete outcrops at Riverstone and Plumpton Ridge and increased technological complexity to improve hunting in an increasingly populated environment.</p>	<p>Text 4</p> <p>Resources</p> <p>There was a wide range of resources for Aboriginal people to use and exploit along the river's bank. Of greatest importance was freshwater from the river itself. With the onset of the Last Glacial Maximum, the availability of water across the Sydney Basin would have been limited, with large numbers of minor rivers and water bodies drying up during this time. However, the Hawkesbury-Nepean River was fed from the Blue Mountain, and would have maintained a constant flow. It was therefore likely one of the few rivers in this region that remained active, and it is no coincidence that the greatest archaeological evidence of Aboriginal people at Thompson Square is during this time. In addition to water was the plentiful supply of large stone river cobbles found along the edges of the river, and used in the production of stone tools for hunting, gathering and food preparation. A number of large unmodified cobbles were recovered from the excavations, as well as fragments from others that had been smashed to pieces for further refinement by Aboriginal people.</p> <p>There was also a wide range of food available along the river's edge. In addition to the numerous wallabies, possums and other animals and birds that would have used the river as drinking source, there was an abundance of freshwater mussels (<i>Velesunio</i> sp.), fish, eels, and cah-bro - a marine wood-borer, commonly known as a shipworm (<i>Teredo</i> sp.). There were also numerous plant species providing both shelter and food, including yams, fern roots, figs, native cherry, geebung, wild parsnip, wattles and apple berries along with many others. Analysis of sediment from the archaeological excavations also found some evidence of an <i>Aracaria</i> sp. - a type of evergreen coniferous tree, which in other parts of Australia produces edible nuts (e.g. the Bunya Pine).</p>
<p>Text 3</p> <p>Archaeological Evidence</p> <p>The uppermost deposits within Thompson Square, ranging from a few centimetres to depths of 1.5m below the modern ground surface, represent the arrival and modification of the landscape by European settlers. Several layers of silts, sand and clays are also intermixed with these deposits, reflecting the numerous major floods that impacted Thompson Square during the 19th Century. Within these historical layers, archaeological excavations found both stone and modified glass artefacts (European glass that has been modified by Aboriginal people into some form of tool), indicating the ongoing presence of Aboriginal people in Thompson Square in the late 18th and early 19th Centuries. Through recovery of a range of historical material in association with these artefacts, it appears that they date to between 1794 and 1836, and may have been produced during one of several corroborees that were documented in the square in the 1830s.</p>	<p>Text 5</p> <p>The Archaeological Salvage Program is to inform the interpretive content for this marker</p>

Appendix B – Historical Context (from SCMP)

