

Gabrielle Francis  
Design Manager  
**Lipman Properties Pty Limited**  
Level 6, 66 Berry Street  
North Sydney NSW 2060

9 February 2010

Dear Gabrielle,

**RE: PRELIMINARY ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
IN RELATION TO A PROPOSED PART 3A DEVELOPMENT  
AT 128 HERRING ROAD, MACQUARIE PARK**

**Introduction**

This report has been prepared by MDCA [Mary Dallas Consulting Archaeologists] at your request in relation to a proposed development at 128 Herring Road, Macquarie Park, in the northern suburbs of Sydney (**Figure 1**). It presents the results of a preliminary Aboriginal archaeological assessment as defined by current Department of Planning Aboriginal heritage policy<sup>1</sup> undertaken to determine whether a full Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment would be required to be undertaken in relation to a current Part 3A development proposal.

The study area is approximately two hectares in size and is bounded in the south by Morling College, to the east by Herring Road, to the north by Dunmore Lang College and to the west by Macquarie University and University Creek. The current proposal is to subdivide the site and construct five multistorey residential buildings with associated service infrastructure and roadways, as indicated in **Figure 2**.

We note that the current report is applicable to the entire development site as shown in **Figure 2**, and can therefore be used in relation to the current Concept Plan, the Project Application for The Stage Subdivision (Stage 1, 1A and 2) and the Project Application for Building A on Lot 1 as well as any future proposals within the area outlined in **Figure 2**. Areas outside of the current study boundary have not been considered for this preliminary assessment.

**Aboriginal Community Consultation**

For the purposes of the current preliminary Aboriginal heritage assessment, brief consultation was undertaken with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC), to provide an initial Aboriginal community perspective on the assessment,

<sup>1</sup>Department of Environment and Conservation 2005. *DRAFT Guidelines For Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation*.





Aboriginal culture and the heritage of Aboriginal persons<sup>2</sup> within their boundaries, which includes the current study area. There are no current Native Title claims in or adjacent to the current study area.

Specifically the project was discussed with Mr Allen Madden, Cultural & Education Officer with the MLALC and a draft copy of the current assessment was reviewed by him. Mr Madden was also asked to comment on any historical or cultural Aboriginal information of which he was aware pertinent to the current preliminary assessment. Mr Madden knew of no-one with specific attachments or having historical connections to this particular area and had none himself.<sup>3</sup> The MLALC report on their interest in this project is attached to the current assessment.

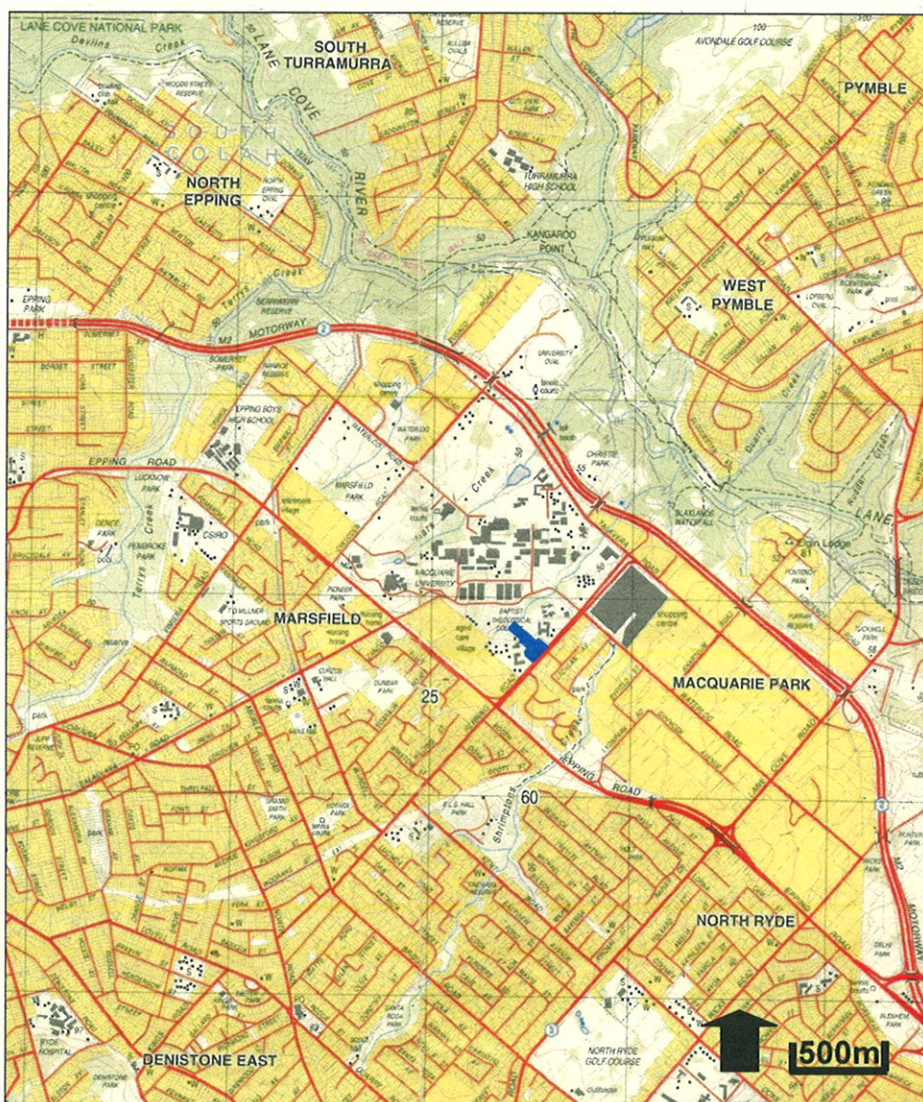


Figure 1. The study area (blue) in its local context [Adapted from Parramatta River 1:25,000].

<sup>2</sup> Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983, s52(1)(m).

<sup>3</sup> Allan Madden and MDCA meeting 10.2.10 pers. comm.





## Environmental Context

The study area is located on the sloping ground above the headwaters of University Creek, a minor tributary of Shrimptons Creek into which it flows about one kilometre downstream of the study area before meeting the Lane Cove River. Shrimptons Creek is located about 500m southeast of the study area and drains the Denistone East/North Ryde area. The study area is underlain by shale bedrock on Hawkesbury sandstone<sup>4</sup>. The shale cap has eroded closer to the river, and sandstone bedrock is exposed further downstream and along more major tributaries like Shrimptons Creek. The shale bedrock has weathered to produce erosional soils of the Glenorie soil landscape<sup>5</sup>. The area would have supported open eucalypt woodland.

Although this environment would have offered a range of food and organic raw material resources, these are likely to have been more plentiful within the Lane Cove River valley, where it is noted sandstone rockshelters also occur.

Historically this land has been heavily impacted, by European land use. Aerial photography from the 1940s<sup>6</sup> shows that the study area (and surrounding area) was largely cleared of original timber by this time and was used for market gardening. Morling College was opened in the 1960s and includes several residential and other buildings and a playing field which currently characterise the site. University Creek has been highly impacted by these activities, and adjacent construction and is partly channelised.

## Existing Aboriginal Heritage Information for the Site

The Department of Environment Climate Change & Water Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System Aboriginal Sites Register ('the AHIMS Register') and Catalogue of Archaeological Reports were consulted. A search of the AHIMS Register of a 3km by 3km area centred on the study area<sup>7</sup> revealed records of 6 previously recorded Aboriginal sites, all located within Lane Cove National Park, around 1km northeast of the study area. They consist of two engraving sites<sup>8</sup>, two rockshelters with art and two rockshelters with archaeological deposit recorded by amateur surveyors in 1979 and in 1997 (the latter in relation to the construction of the M2 Motorway). All previously recorded sites are associated with outcropping sandstone and none are located within or immediately adjacent to the current study area and will not be affected by the current proposed development.

Several previous archaeological assessments are also relevant to the current study:

- Initial archaeological assessment of the then proposed M2 Motorway corridor in 1989 and 1992<sup>9</sup>, about 500m east of the current study area, considered the archaeological

<sup>4</sup> Herbert, C. (ed.) 1980. *Geology of the Sydney 1:100 000 sheet*. (New South Wales Geological Survey).

<sup>5</sup> Chapman, G.A., Murphy, C.L., Tille, P.J., Atkinson, G. and Morse, R.J. 1989. *Sydney 1:100,00 Soil Landscape Map*. (Soil Conservation Service of NSW, Sydney).

<sup>6</sup> 1943 aerial as viewed on Department of Planning SIX Viewer, 4/2/10.

<sup>7</sup> AHIMS Register search of 4/2/10 of AMG coordinates in Zone 56, E324000 – E327000, N6259500-N6262500.

<sup>8</sup> One of the engraving sites #45-6-1235 has a coordinate placing it around 500m northwest of the study area, within or close to the grounds of Macquarie University. However the original site recording and accompanying maps show that it is in fact located within the Lane Cove River corridor below South Turramurra. A corrected coordinate has been sent to the AHIMS Registrar.

<sup>9</sup> Haglund, L. 1989. *Preliminary Survey for Aboriginal Sites along F2-Castlereagh Freeway, Pennant Hills Road to Lane Cove River* (Report to the Department of Main Roads), Haglund & Associates 1992. *North West*



potential of the general area, and concluded that historical disturbance had rendered major stream crossings or undeveloped bushland the most likely places for archaeological sites to occur within the assessed route (and these generally were associated with outcropping sandstone or proximity to river resources). It was also noted that artefact scatters were unlikely to have survived historic development on ridges and spurs<sup>10</sup> (such as the current study area).

- Archaeological assessment undertaken in relation to the construction of the newly opened Epping-Chatswood rail link<sup>11</sup> included a corridor several hundred metres northeast of the current study area. The current study area was part of lands assessed as being highly disturbed on the basis of aerial photograph review<sup>12</sup> and was not subject to field survey. No additional Aboriginal sites or areas of archaeological potential were located during the survey in proximity to the study area. In addition, no places of Aboriginal cultural or historical significance were described by the Aboriginal people consulted during the study.
- Recent archaeological test excavations in a similar topographic location (and historically disturbed context) about 1.5km southeast of the current study area resulted in the retrieval of a single stone artefact despite extensive excavations<sup>13</sup>.

In addition, several other relevant points can be made:

- Online searches of the Australian Heritage Database and NSW Heritage Inventory (4/2/10) revealed that no items are registered in or adjacent to the study area for their Aboriginal heritage or other values.
- A database of around 280 Aboriginal historical places in the Sydney region compiled by MDCA archaeologist Paul Irish for the Sydney Aboriginal Historical Places Project does not include any places within or in close proximity to the current study area. Research undertaken to date for that project suggests that the particular area of the study area is unlikely to have had significant historical or cultural associations for Aboriginal people, and it is noted that no such associations have been noted or raised by the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council or native title claimant groups in relation to previous studies in close proximity to the study area.
- On the basis of the above information, it could be concluded that the study area is unlikely to have been used intensively by Aboriginal people in the past and furthermore, that evidence of any past Aboriginal use is unlikely to have survived impacts from the historical use of the study area over the last century.

### Site Inspection

A site inspection was undertaken by MDCA archaeologist Paul Irish in fine weather on 4 February 2010. The site visit confirmed the conclusions from the contextual research outlined above, that the land has been heavily impacted upon by historical land use. Specifically, the gently sloping ground has been heavily disrupted by the construction and

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*Transport Links East: Environmental Impact Statement. Working Paper. Aboriginal Heritage Archaeology*  
(Report to Maunsell Pty Ltd in behalf of NSW RTA).

<sup>10</sup> Haglund & Associates 1992:9.

<sup>11</sup> Jo McDonald Cultural Heritage Management Pty Ltd. 2001. *Parramatta Rail Link EIS Review. Survey and Assessment of Indigenous Heritage Issues* (Report PRL).

<sup>12</sup> Jo McDonald CHM Pty Ltd 2001:36.

<sup>13</sup> HLA-Envirosciences 2003. *Archaeological Subsurface Testing Program: Eden Gardens, Macquarie Park, NSW*.





use of a number of one and two storey residential and educational buildings and associated roadways. Exposed ground around these buildings, and trees on the property show lag gravels on clay subsoil, indicating the removal or disturbance of original A horizon topsoil (**Figure 3**). The northern end of the study area consists of part of a playing field, which has been constructed by cutting and filling along the slope (**Figure 4**), and is underlain by a large stormwater pipe discharging into University Creek (**Figure 5**). The banks of this creek are heavily eroded and demonstrate the absence of original topsoil. Trees on the site are unlikely to be of sufficient age to have been culturally modified by Aboriginal people, and no mature trees contained scars of possible cultural origin. Small localised sandstone outcrops are present in several areas, of less than 1m x 1m in size and have no potential for rock engravings. No stone artefacts were noted in exposed areas, nor were any stone types not local to the area, except blue metal gravels introduced through historical activities.



**Figure 3.** View southeast in central portion of study area showing exposed clay subsoil and gravel.



**Figure 4.** View southeast along northeastern boundary fence showing raised edge of playing field and buildings in background.



**Figure 5.** View southeast over study area to playing field and buildings showing heavily eroded and impacted creek bank.

## Conclusions

The study area has been comprehensively disturbed through historical land use. It is located in a position unlikely to have been used intensively by Aboriginal people in the past, though transit through this area into the Lane Cove River valley may have occurred. Any evidence of this past use would be restricted to open campsites containing surface or subsurface scatters of stone artefacts, and possible culturally modified trees. The sandstone outcrops used for engravings and camping (in rockshelters) do not occur within the study area.

Any archaeological evidence will have been comprehensively disturbed or destroyed by historical land use, and no intact or *in situ* Aboriginal archaeological remains would be expected to have survived. There do not appear to be any documented Aboriginal cultural or historical associations with the specific study area or its immediate surrounds [see attached report of the MLALC]. This was also the conclusion of the Aboriginal community consultation program undertaken as part of the Aboriginal heritage assessment of the Epping-Chatswood rail-link which included the current study area as part of its broader contextual assessment.

It can therefore be concluded that the current proposal will not impact upon any known or potential Aboriginal archaeological remains, and there are no other documented Aboriginal heritage values which are likely to be affected by the proposal.

On this basis, further Aboriginal heritage assessment in relation to the current Part 3A project is not considered warranted. Further Aboriginal archaeological investigations, including monitoring of earthworks associated with proposed construction are also considered unwarranted on archaeological grounds given the high level of documented past impact.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



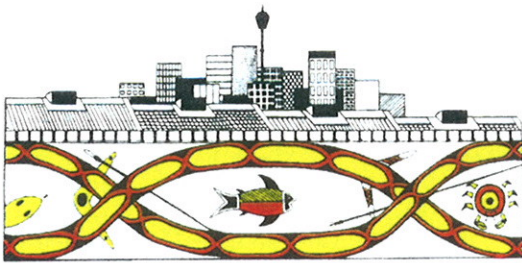
Mary Dallas

Principal Heritage Consultant

**MDCA**

**Attachment: Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council Report**





**METROPOLITAN LOCAL  
ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL**

36-38 George Street, Redfern NSW 2016  
P.O. Box 1103 Strawberry Hills, NSW 2012  
Telephone: (02) 8394 9666 Fax: (02) 8394 9733  
Email: [metrolalc@metrolalc.org.au](mailto:metrolalc@metrolalc.org.au)

Mary Dallas  
MDCA  
31 Waterview Street  
Balmain NSW 2041

9.2.20

Dear Mary,

**RE: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT – 128 HERRING ROAD, MACQUARIE  
PARK, NSW.**

The Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council has reviewed the MDCA  
Aboriginal archaeological assessment report on the proposed development at Herring  
Road, Macquarie Park.

The general area was also part of an earlier review for the proposed Epping -  
Parramatta rail and also for the Macquarie University which the MLALC was part of.  
We wish to advise we have no objection to the proposed development and there are  
no Aboriginal heritage constraints as the nearest sites will not be impacted by this  
development. We know of no Aboriginal historic associations or particular  
connections to this land.

Yours sincerely,

Allan Madden  
Cultural Heritage and Sites Officer  
Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council