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25 May 2011

Our reference: 110331-2

Andrew Wilson,

Associate

JBA Planning Consultancy Pty Ltd

Level 7, 77 Berry Street,

North Sydney

NSW, 2056

RE: Baseline Historical Archaeological Impact Assessment of the Proposed Wet 'n' Wild Water Theme Park, Reservoir Road, Prospect

Dear Mr Wilson,

We refer to our commission by JBA Planning Consultants Pty Ltd to undertake a baseline historical archaeological impact assessment of the above project on behalf of Prospect Aquatic Investments Pty Ltd. We understand that the project is subject to Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and that an archaeological impact assessment is required to address certain issues raised in submissions by the Heritage Branch, Department of Planning (now part of the Office of Environment and Heritage) and Blacktown Council to the exhibition of the Concept plan for the proposed development.

This letter documents the assessment, and its conclusions and recommendations. If you have any questions or enquiries, please contact Graham Wilson or Laura Matarese 02 9555 4000.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Douglas

Director

AHMS



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. JBA Planning Consultants Pty Ltd commissioned AHMS to undertake a baseline historical archaeological impact assessment of land at Reservoir Road, Prospect, NSW, which is the subject of a Concept Proposal for development of a *Wet 'n' Wild Water Theme Park*,
2. The purpose of the baseline assessment was to identify whether or not any historical archaeological resources may survive within the area that will be developed as a result of this proposal, to assess whether or not any archaeological resources would be impacted by the proposed development and to make recommendations regarding any further archaeological assessment, investigation and/or management that may be warranted to manage such resources prior to development.
3. The baseline archaeological impact assessment was undertaken by reviewing and summarising a detailed history of the study area prepared by Graham Brooks and Associates¹, in addition to undertaking a site inspection of the study area. The baseline archaeological impact assessment identified physical remains of historical occupation in the study area including:
 - a) Structural remains of a mid twentieth century cottage fronting Reservoir Road, south of the former police cottage;
 - b) Structural remains and exotic plantings relating to a mid twentieth century farm house complex within Lot C, formerly of Portion 37; and
 - c) Remnants of timber posts, possible associated with mid twentieth century advertising hoarding or Post War ancillary buildings such as a shed or barn.
4. This assessment concludes that the remains of historical occupation described at 3 a-c (above) are unlikely to have State or local heritage significance. As a result, the remains are not considered to be 'relics', as defined by the *Heritage Act 1977*.
5. Potential relics may survive below the interior of the former police cottage study area, however this area was unable to be inspected. These potential relics may be of State and local heritage significance and so they may be 'relics' as defined by the *Heritage Act 1977*.

¹ Graham Brooks and Associates (2011). *Draft Statement of Heritage Impact Lot 1 DP 1045771* on behalf of Prospect Aquatic Investments Pty Ltd. The Graham Brooks and Associates report was undertaken as part of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Wet 'n' Wild Sydney water theme park, Prospect NSW.

6. It is considered to be unlikely that potential historical archaeological 'relics' survive elsewhere within the study area.
7. It is understood that as part of the Applicants Statement of Commitments for the proposed development of the Wet 'n' Wild water theme park, the former police cottage is to be retained.
8. As a result, there are no immediate potential impacts of proposed development of the Wet 'n' Wild theme park on potential relics within the former police cottage.
9. If conservation of the police cottage, or any other form of development of that cottage is proposed in future, it will be necessary to undertake an archaeological assessment of the impact of such a proposal to ensure that significant relics associated with past occupation of the cottage are not disturbed by development.
10. No further historical archaeological assessment of proposed development in the study area appears to be warranted.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Prospect Aquatic Investments Pty Ltd proposes to develop a Wet 'n' Wild water theme park at Reservoir Road, Prospect (referred to as the study area).

JBA Planning Consultants on behalf of Prospect Aquatic Investments Pty Ltd has commissioned Archaeological and Heritage Management Solutions Pty Ltd (AHMS) to undertake a baseline historical archaeological impact assessment of the study area. The purpose of the baseline assessment was to identify whether or not any historical archaeological resources may survive at the site, to assess whether or not any archaeological resources would be impacted by the proposed development and to make recommendations regarding any further archaeological assessment, investigation and/or management, if it is warranted.

The baseline assessment is not a comprehensive historical archaeological assessment pursuant to any Heritage Council guidelines that may apply, such as the *NSW Heritage Manual* or *Assessing Significance for Archaeological Sites and 'Relics'*.

1.2 Methodology

The baseline historical archaeological assessment (this report) was undertaken by reviewing and summarising a detailed history of the study area prepared by Graham Brooks and Associates.² Some additional secondary historical resources were also accessed and reviewed for this report.

The historical section (**Section 3**) of this report focuses upon themes and events defined by Graham Brooks and Associates that were considered relevant to identification of potential archaeological resources within the study area. Areas of potential archaeological resources were identified using this material and these areas were prioritised as key locations to investigate during the site inspection.

A site inspection was undertaken to:

- investigate key areas of archaeological potential identified in the review of the history of the study area;
- assess the likelihood of survival of potential archaeological resources at the study area; and
- identify the impact of previous land uses and disturbance to inform assessment of the location and extent of any archaeological resources at the study area.

² Graham Brooks and Associates (2011). *Draft Statement of Heritage Impact Lot 1 DP 1045771* on behalf of Prospect Aquatic Investments Pty Ltd. The Graham Brooks and Associates report was undertaken as part of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Wet 'n' Wild Sydney water theme park, Prospect NSW.

Recommendations for the avoidance and/ or mitigation of development impacts upon potential archaeological resources identified within the study area are made in **Section 6** of this report.

1.3 Location

The study area is located at Reservoir Road, Prospect NSW (**Figure 1**). It is located in the Parish of Prospect, County of Cumberland and in the Blacktown Local Government Area. The proposed development area consists of Lot 1 DP 1045771 (**Figure 2**).

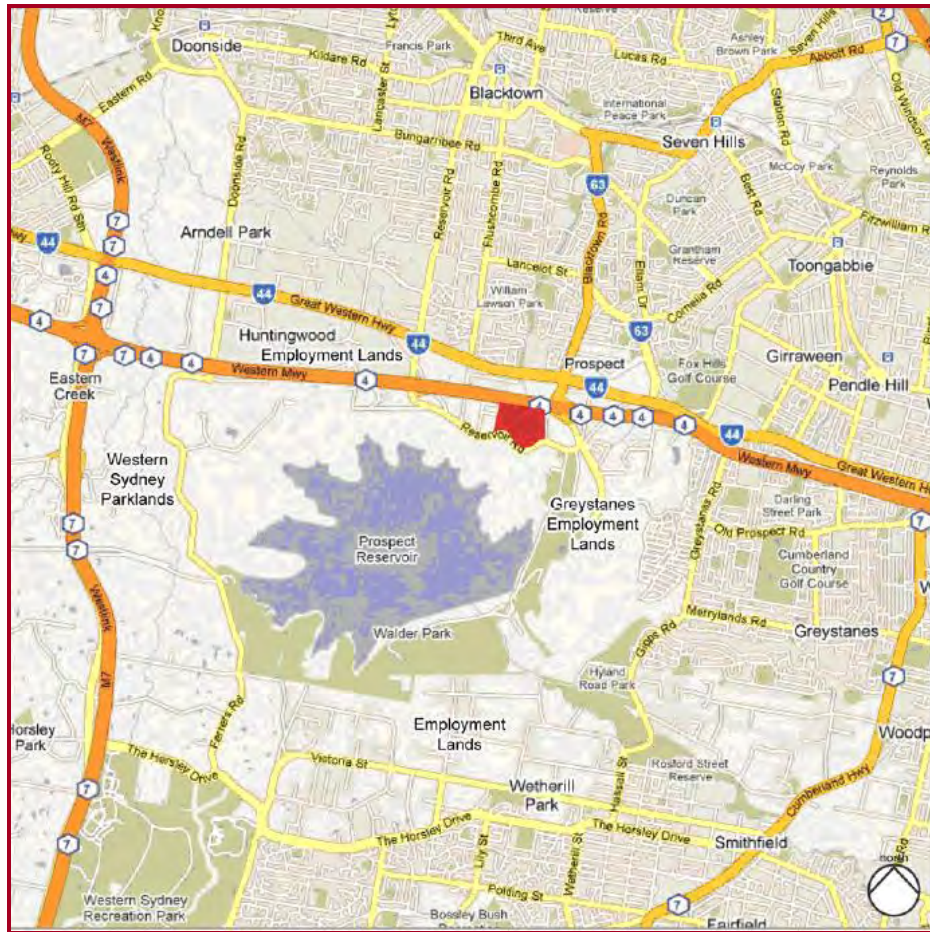


Figure 1. General location of the study area highlighted in red (source: JBA, 2009. Wet 'n' Wild Sydney Part 3A Environmental Assessment Report).



Figure 2. Recent aerial photograph of land incorporating the study area (marked in red). (source: JBA, 2009. Wet 'n' Wild Sydney Part 3A Environmental Assessment Report)

1.4 Authorship

This document was written by Laura Matarese (Consultant, AHMS), with the assistance of Graham Wilson (Senior Consultant, AHMS). The report was reviewed by Peter Douglas (Director, AHMS).

1.5 Acknowledgements

AHMS acknowledges the assistance of Andrew Wilson (JBA Planning Consultants), Graham Brooks and Associates, NSW Lands and Property Information System and the NSW State Library during preparation of this assessment.

2. STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

2.1 *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 - Part 3A*

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, together with the *Heritage Act 1977* and the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* combine to form an integrated system for managing environmental heritage in NSW.

The proposed development of a Wet 'n' Wild Sydney water theme park, Prospect NSW (Application Number MP10_0190) is subject to the Concept Plan provisions of Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)*. It is not currently known whether it would be subject to the 'approved project' provisions, as defined by Section 75A of the *EP&A Act*, or whether project approval would be considered by Blacktown City Council in accordance with local government planning provisions.

Under Section 75U 1 d of the *EP&A Act*, 'approved projects' do not require approvals, permits and/or consents issued in accordance with the *Heritage Act 1977* in relation to historical heritage.

The Part 3A Concept Approvals provisions alone, however, do not remove the approvals, permits, requirements and/or consents of the *Heritage Act 1977*. Concept Approvals also remain subject to the provisions of local and regional planning instruments (such as Local Environmental Plans, Development and Control Plans and State Environmental Planning Policies).

2.2 *Heritage Act, 1977*

The *NSW Heritage Act 1977* is designed to conserve the environmental heritage of New South Wales and regulate development impacts on the state's heritage assets. In addition to buildings and items listed on the State Heritage Register, archaeological features and deposits are afforded automatic statutory protection by the relics provisions of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* (as amended in 2009).

The Act defines a 'relic' as:

"any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that:

- a) relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and*
- b) is of State or local heritage significance".*

The relics provisions of the *Heritage Act* (Part 6 Division 9 of the Act) protect all relics in NSW that meet the criteria listed above. The circumstances under which an excavation permit is required are set out in Section 139 of the Act as follows:

- (1) A person must not disturb or excavate any land knowing or having reasonable cause to suspect that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a

relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed unless the disturbance or excavation is carried out in accordance with an excavation permit.

(2) A person must not disturb or excavate any land on which the person has discovered or exposed a relic except in accordance with an excavation permit.

A Concept Approval under Part 3A of the *EP&A Act* would require permits and/or approvals from the Heritage Council of NSW to disturb or excavate land which may result in relics being exposed, damaged or destroyed.

If such relics are discovered, exposed, or moved through development at the study area, the work may only be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist to whom an excavation permit has been issued by the Heritage Council of NSW. However in the event that a site is assessed as not containing relics, or that identified relics are to sustain a minor impact, the Act makes provisions for a another form of approval known as an Exception.

3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The following historical background and site specific history has been written based on Graham Brooks and Associates *Draft Statement of Heritage Impact Lot 1 DP 1045771* (January 2011) report, and other secondary sources.

Key aspects of the history of the study area have been highlighted in the site specific history to focus on areas of historical archaeological potential.

3.1 Contextual History

Prospect Village

In 1788, Governor Arthur Phillip led an exploratory party to the west of the new settlement of Sydney, in search of fertile land for the colony. They came to a hill from the summit of which they obtained an excellent view of the surrounding country. Phillip consequently named the hill Bellevue, and it later became known as Prospect Hill.³ The Hill was also used as a reference point by later explorers.

In the early 1790s, Governor Phillip opened farming settlements in several areas near Parramatta. In 1791, he granted land to thirteen emancipist settlers at the eastern foot of Prospect Hill. The grants formed a semi-circle around the base of Prospect Hill, south east of the study area.

Over the following years in the colony, large farms and areas of land were granted to ex-military and free settlers in the area. The granting of land to Corps members may have been part of a strategy by Governor King who, in 1801, ordered that the local Aboriginal population around Prospect be pushed back to protect the growing colony. It is likely that Corps members were granted land in this area as part of this protection strategy. Some of the Corps members granted land in and around Prospect were Lieutenant William Lawson, Captain Robert Lethbridge, D'Arcy Wentworth and John Campbell.⁴ The study area is located partly within Captain Robert Lethbridge's land grant.

During the 1830s, Lethbridge's grant was subdivided and sold. The subdivision of this and other grants along the Western Road in Prospect lay the foundations for a village in the area to grow. The village of Prospect grew through the mid part of the nineteenth century and the community included a post office, church and dairy farm. The growth of the town was halted by the opening of the Great Western Railway extension to Blacktown, to the north of the study area. This extension meant that Prospect would remain a comparatively small settlement in the 19th century with sporadic periods of growth.⁵

³ Karskens, 1991

⁴ Kass Liston & McClymont, 1996

⁵ Bloxham, 2002

In the early twentieth century the village of Prospect, located north of the study area, flourished with further subdivision and development. The decline of Prospect occurred gradually after the 1940s and until the 1960s when the village became isolated due to developments of the roadways, particularly the Great Western Highway which left the Western Road (now Reservoir Road and Tarlington Place) as a minor thoroughfare.⁶

Western Road

Although the initial route west was the Parramatta River, a track was cut between Sydney and Parramatta at some time between 1789 and 1791.⁷ By 1797, the road had been extended to the west to give access to the new settlements at Toongabbie and Prospect.⁸ The road branched in two; one route leading to the south past the Prospect Hill grants to the Nepean River and the Cowpasture settlement; the second leading to the north to the Hawkesbury River and the Richmond settlement.

Prospect was thus near the junction of three important routes. A number of businesses were established along these routes. These catered to travellers, and also to the local population. In the vicinity of the study area, businesses included the Royal Cricketer's Arms Hotels (to the west of the study area) and the Prospect Post Office (to the north of the study area).

The Royal Cricketers Arms stands on the corner of the old section of the Western Road (now Reservoir Road) and Flushcombe Road.⁹ It is thought to have been built by James Manning in c.1881, but may have operated for a short time before that date. Manning and one of the Neeve family also operated the Flushcombe Stores and Butchers adjacent to the hotel in the 1880s.¹⁰ The Hotel continued to operate until the early twentieth century.¹¹

Prospect Reservoir

One of the small periods of expansion of the town of Prospect in the latter 19th century was due to the construction of the Prospect Reservoir.¹² The Prospect Reservoir was the outcome of a NSW Government Commission to recommend a scheme for Sydney's water supply as a component of the Upper Nepean Scheme. Designed and constructed by the Public Works Department of NSW, Prospect Reservoir was built during the 1880s and completed in 1888. The construction of the reservoir brought contractors and labourers to

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Griffith, 1976, p. 3.

⁸ Griffith, 1976, p. 5

⁹ Bloxham, 2002, p. 73.

¹⁰ SHR 'Royal Cricketers Arms Inn'

¹¹ SHR 'Royal Cricketers Arms Inn'

¹² Ibid

the area. Services and amenities sprang up near the reservoir site including hotels (such as the Royal Cricketers Arms Hotel) and a police station (located within the study area). However by the completion of the project, many of the labourers moved on and the town dismantled.

3.2 Site Specific History

The study area is situated in part of the original land grants to the Church and School Estate and Royal Navy Captain Robert Lethbridge (Figure 3).

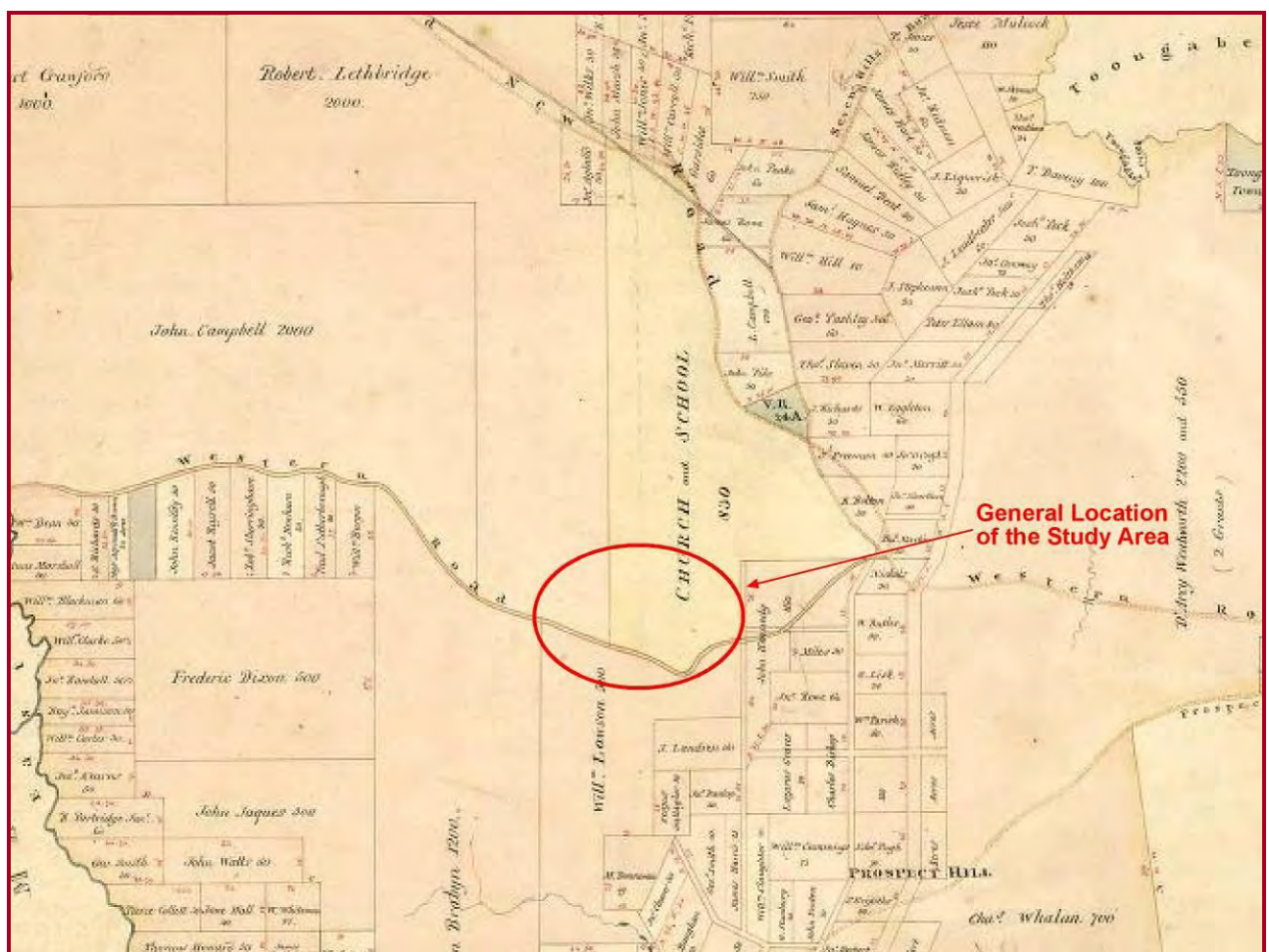


Figure 3: General location of the study area on a parish map of Prospect (n.d., possibly 1829) shown in red within Robert Lethbridge's and the Church and School Estate's land grants (source: Parish Map Preservation Project, NSW Land and Property Management Authority).

Lethbridge's Flushcombe Estate

- Robert Lethbridge was granted 2, 000 acres in 1823 in acknowledgement of excellent service during his time in the Royal Navy.
- His property was known as the "Flushcombe Estate" and began to be cleared by convicts in 1824.
- By November 1824 Lethbridge advertise 425 acres of property available for lease being

*" a desirable Farm... with convenient buildings; i.e. a cottage of 4 rooms, a detached kitchen, barn, stable and dairy"*¹³

- Lethbridge's Flushcombe property was put up for sale from 1830 to 1832. The advertisement for the sale describes a large complex homestead. A summary of the description of the property for sale includes:
 - A description of a property of 500 acres with a large house including entrance hall, dining room, drawing room, five bedrooms, kitchen, four skillion rooms and out buildings including a coach house, stable, sunken dairy of stone, barn, yards and a garden with a variety of orchard and exotic plantings.
 - The description includes two other portions of land for sale including a land comprising three enclosed paddocks located with frontage to the Western Road (Reservoir Road) of 40-50 acres each and five allotments of land located at New Richmond Road of 70-80 acres each.
- Lethbridge's Flushcombe Estate was subdivided and auctioned in 1869 (**Figure 4**). The division plan has 37 portions with the southern boundary running along the northern edge of the Western Road (Reservoir Road).
- The 1869 subdivision plan indicates an 'Old Barn' straddling the property boundary of Portion 36 and 37. The property boundary of Portion 36 and 37 is the western property boundary of the study area.
- The western part of the study area is located within Portion 37 of the subdivision of Lethbridge's Estate.
- The 1869 Flushcombe Estate subdivision plan indicates the land to the east of Portion 37, part of the study area, remained as "Church and School Lands".

¹³ Graham Brooks and Associates 2011:15

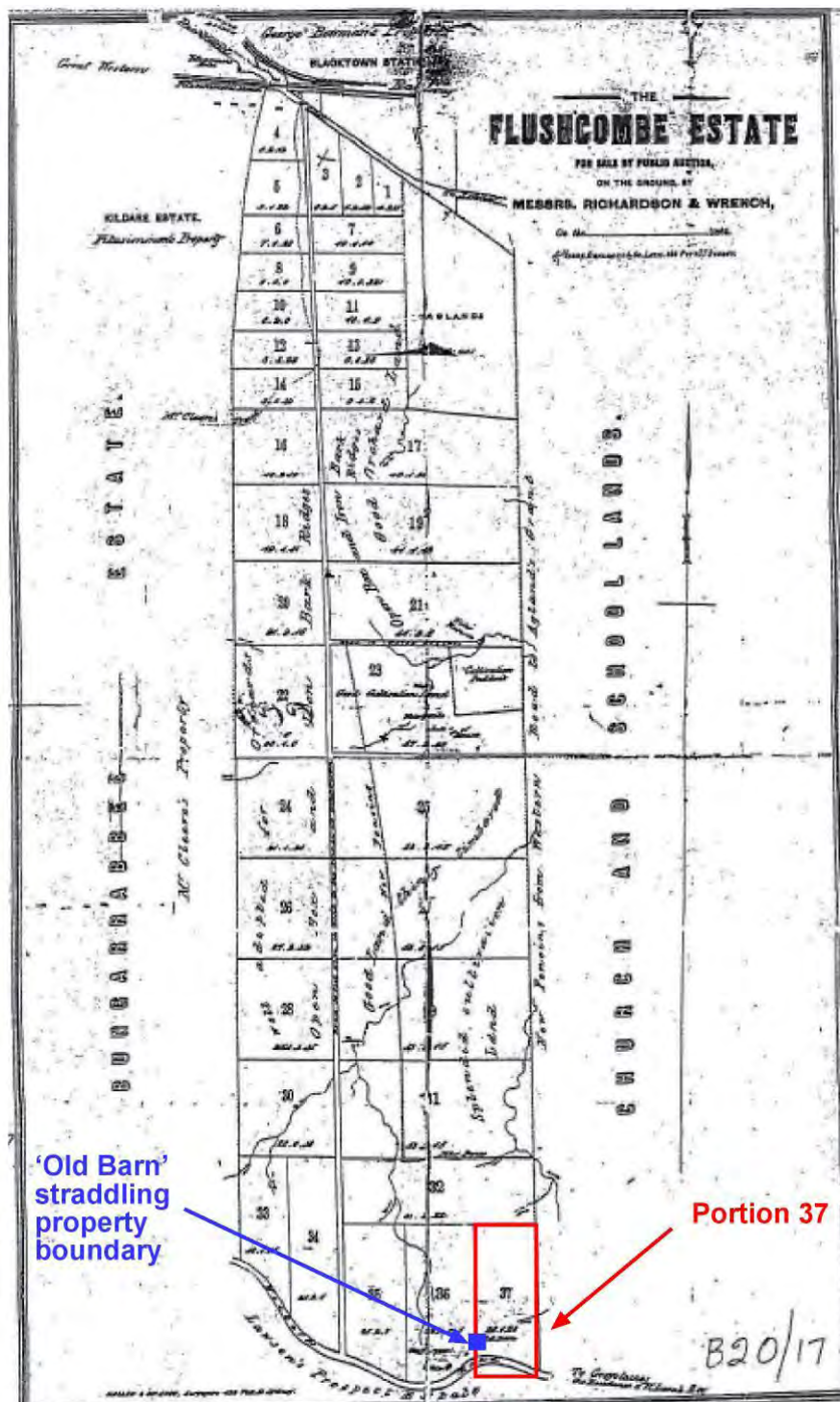


Figure 4 Flushcombe Estate subdivision plan (1869) with Portion 37, the western part of the study area highlighted in red and the 'Old Barn' highlighted in blue (source: Graham Brooks and Associates, 2011)

Portion 37 of Lethbridge's Estate - The Western Part of the Study Area

- In 1870, Portion 37 was purchased by blacksmith William Hay.
- An 1879 plan of the adjacent property, Portion 36, indicates a vineyard and "Cottage etc" was located at the western boundary of the study area (Figure 5).
- Hay sold Portion 37 the Creasey family in 1882, who also ran a local hotel. The Creasey family may have leased the property from Hay prior to the sale.
- From the mid 1880s, the cottage was informally leased as a police station with a potable cell. The police station was considered to be in an ideal location for maintaining law and order in the local area due to its proximity to the construction site of the Prospect Reservoir.
- By 1893 the cottage was formally leased as a police station.
- In 1894 Creasy subdivided and sold Lot 37 into four smaller lots each fronting the Western Road (Reservoir Road). The study area includes Lot A and Lot C of this subdivision.

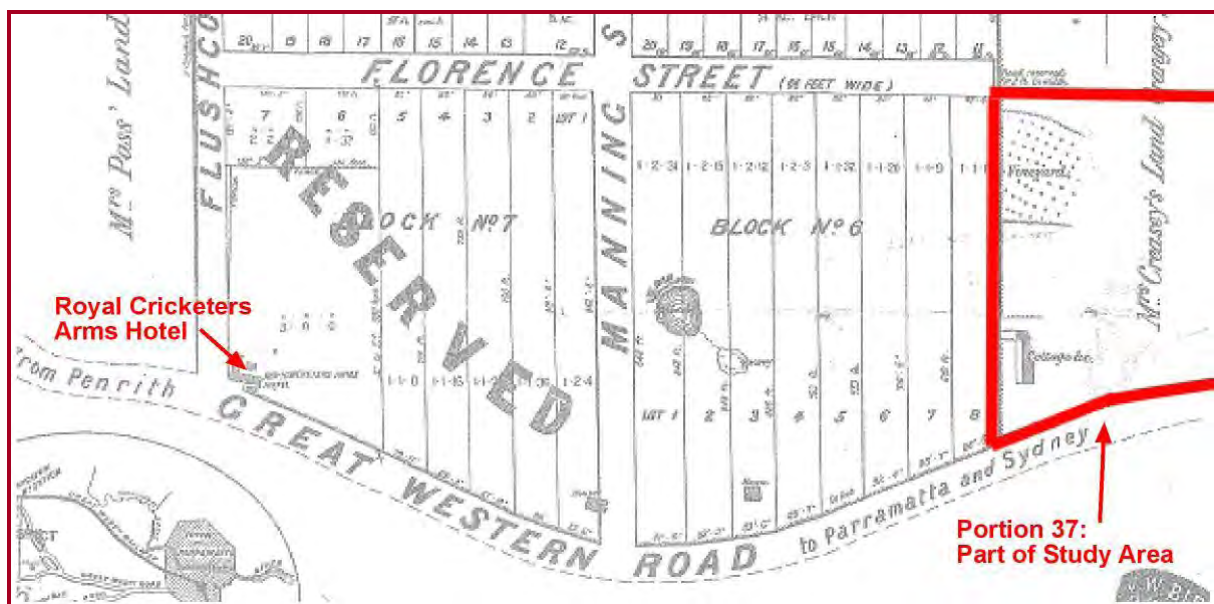


Figure 5 Detail of a subdivision plan, possibly dating to 1879, showing the Royal Cricketers Arms Hotel and part of Portion 37 with "vineyards" and "Cottage &c" (source: Plan of Flushcombe Village Blacktown fronting the Great Western Road and the Prospect Reservoir for auction sale on the ground Saturday Novr 29th, Mills and Pile Auctioneers, State Library of NSW, Subdivision plans, ZSP:P17/1).

Lot A

- **Lot A** is the western most allotment of Portion 37.
- Beattie, a police constable, purchased Lot A in 1895. Beattie had formally leased the cottage since 1892. Beattie used the cottage as a police station.
- There were several conveyances of the allotment during the 20th century until the property was sold to the State government in the 1990s.
- One structure, possibly a cottage, had been constructed south of the former police cottage fronting the Western Road (Reservoir Road), possibly by 1930 (**Figure 8**).
- One of the conveyances of Lot A was to a Marrickville furniture manufacturer named Doyle in 1935. Doyle may have attempted to capitalise on the passing traffic and make the cottage a café with some guest housing. The 1943 aerial photograph shows a structure, possible guest house or café, fronting the Western Road and a driveway.
- A second cottage in the location of the driveway visible in the 1943 aerial photograph, was constructed by 1956 (**Figure 10**). The building still stands at the site, fronting Reservoir Road.
- By 2011 the building immediately south of the cottage fronting the Western Road had been demolished.

Lot C

- **Lot C** is located in the eastern part of Portion 37, between the Church and School Lands to the east) and Beattie's Lot A (to the west).
- Several conveyances for the allotment occurred during the 20th century prior to being sold to the State Government in the 1990s.
- In the 20th century, the allotment was used for agricultural uses and a poultry farm.
- The 1930 aerial shows a driveway from the main road to a farm house in the centre of the allotment (**Figure 8**).
- The 1943 aerial photograph indicates several other buildings had been constructed around the house and evidence of garden plantings around the structures (**Figure 9**).
- The 1956 aerial photograph indicates market gardening occurred in the allotment (**Figure 10**).
- By 1970 several large shed had been constructed within Lot C (**Figure 11**). They were likely used for poultry farming.
- All the structures located in Lot C were demolished sometime between 1970 and 2011.

Church and School Lands - The Eastern Part of the Study Area

- The eastern part of the study area originally formed part of the Prospect Common, a generally uncleared area to be able to be used for grazing.
- The land was transferred to the Church and School Estate in 1829.
- The estate made little use of the land and it was likely to continue to have been used for grazing until 1870 when the Church and School Estate subdivided the land for sale.
- The subdivided land within the study area includes Lot 19 and Lot 19A and part of Lot 17A (Figure 6).

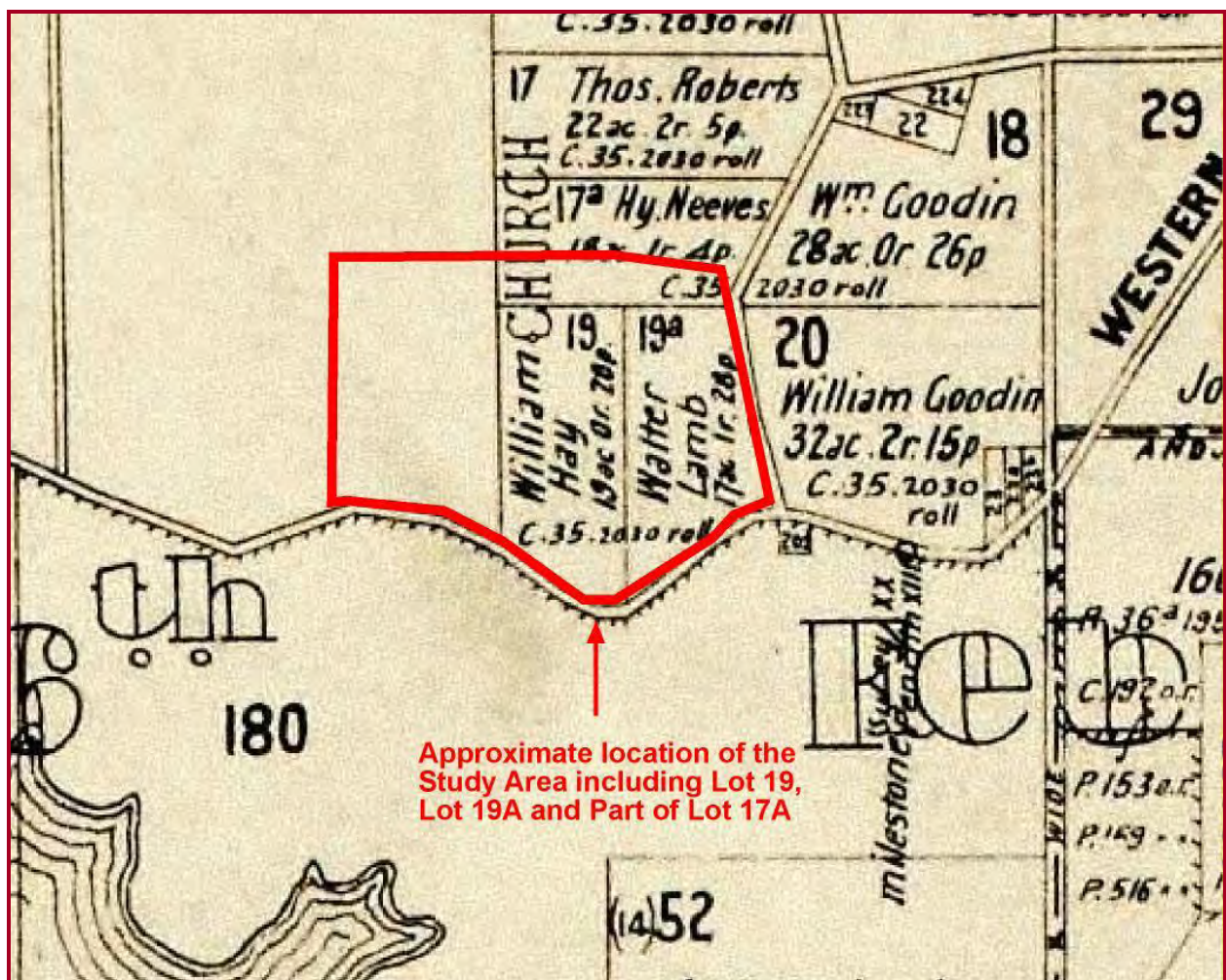


Figure 6 1894 Parish Map of Prospect indicating the approximate outline of the study area including Lot 19, Lot 19A and part of Lot 17A (source: Parish Map Preservation Project, NSW Land and Property Management Authority)

Lot 19

- **Lot 19** was purchased in 1871 by William Hay, a local blacksmith, who also owned Portion 37 at the time.
- Hay sold the property in 1892 and several conveyances of the allotment occurred until the land was purchased by the State government in the 1990s.
- An 1893 Water Board Plan shows two buildings marked on the property near the Western Road (**Figure 7**).
- Historic aerial photograph from 1930 onwards indicates the land was used for agricultural purposes during the majority of the 20th century.

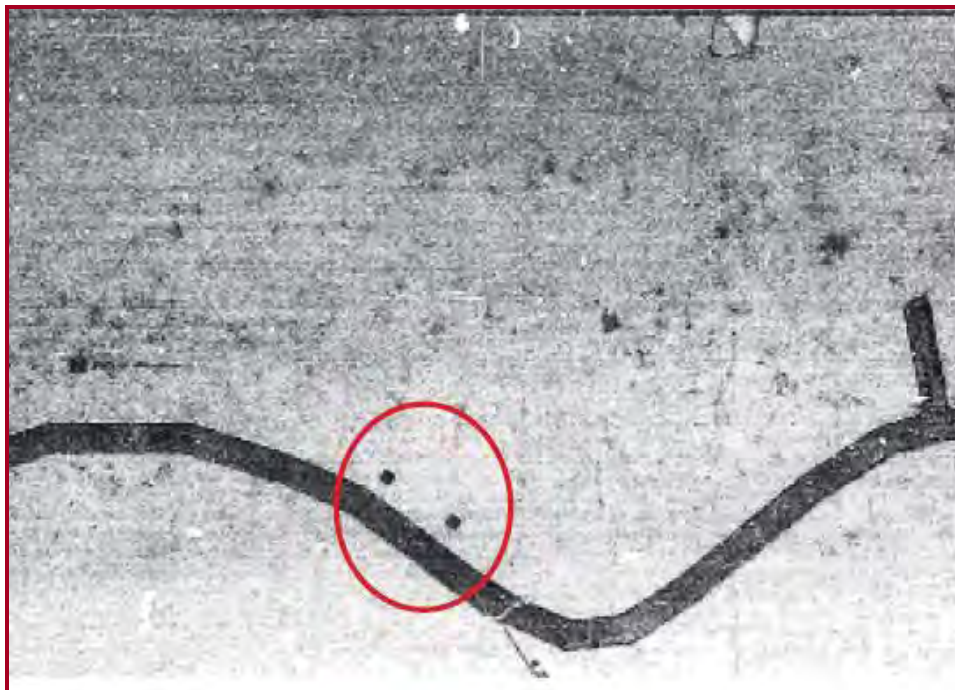
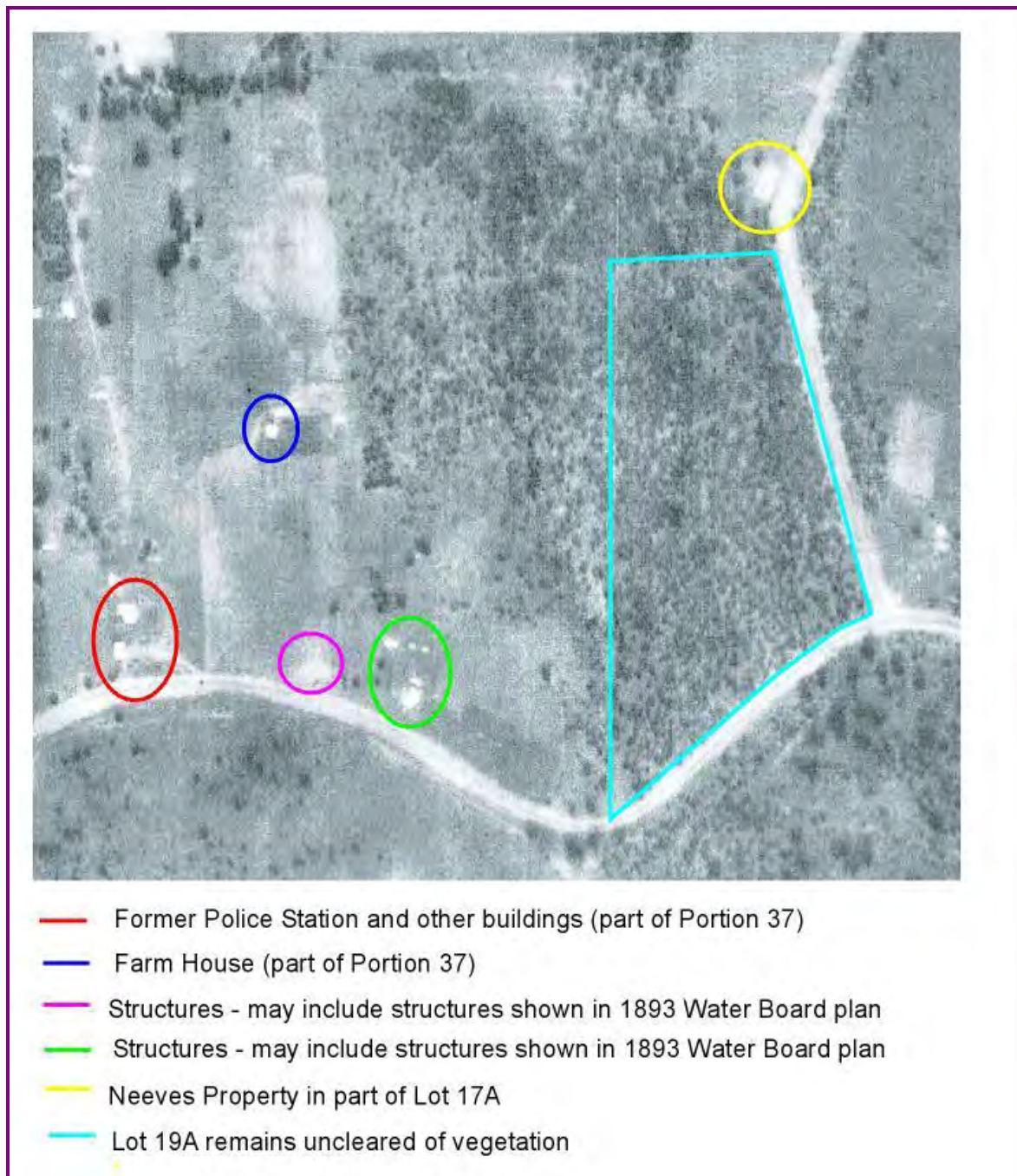


Figure 7 c. 1893 Water Board Plan showing two structures within Lot 19 of the study area, outlined in red (source: Graham Brooks and Associates, 2011)

- The 1930 aerial photograph shows two buildings, in a similar location to the structures indicated on the 1893 Water Board plan, with several out buildings (**Figure 8**). At this time, Lot 19 was partly cleared of vegetation.
- By 1943 the property had been cleared of vegetation and several buildings had been constructed in the vicinity of the Western Road. One of the two buildings that may have been shown in the 1893 plan may have been demolished by this time (**Figure 9**).
- Development continued on the allotment from the 1960s onwards including a dam, second cluster of farm buildings (see **Figure 8** and **Figure 11**).
- By 2011 several buildings, including the second of the two buildings that may have been shown in the 1893 plan had been demolished.

Lot 19A

- In 1871, Walter Lamb, a prominent local business man and pastoralist, purchased Lot 19A, located at the eastern boundary of the study area boarded by Watch House Road (formerly Church Lane).
- The land was conveyed several times and in 1929 it was subdivided into 30 separate allotments.
- A 1930s aerial photograph indicates the site was uncleared of vegetation and appears to be unoccupied (see



- Figure 8 8).
- Development of the allotment continued during the Interwar period, however the majority of the development of the site occurred during the Post War period (c.1945 to the early 1960s) (see Figure 9 to Figure 11).
- Aerial photographs indicate the development of the subdivided allotments of Lot 19A occurred during after 1943 and included clearing the land of vegetation, the construction of houses, sheds and dams.

Lot 17A

- The north eastern corner of the study area includes part of **Lot 17A**, which was conveyed to Henry Neeves in 1871.
- The Neeves were well known local family of the Prospect area. At the property they had a large house that fronted the original alignment of Watch House Road (formerly Church Lane).
- The house, visible in the 1930 aerial photograph (**Figure 8**).
- The allotment was purchased by Plumber in 1939 who also owned part of Portion 37 at the time.
- The 1943 aerial photograph indicates the allotment was cleared of vegetation and replaced with formal garden plantings. Additional structures are also visible in the photograph (**Figure 9**).
- In the 1990s the land was conveyed to the NSW State government in preparation for the construction of the Motorway.
- Prior to the construction of the motorway, the buildings were demolished.

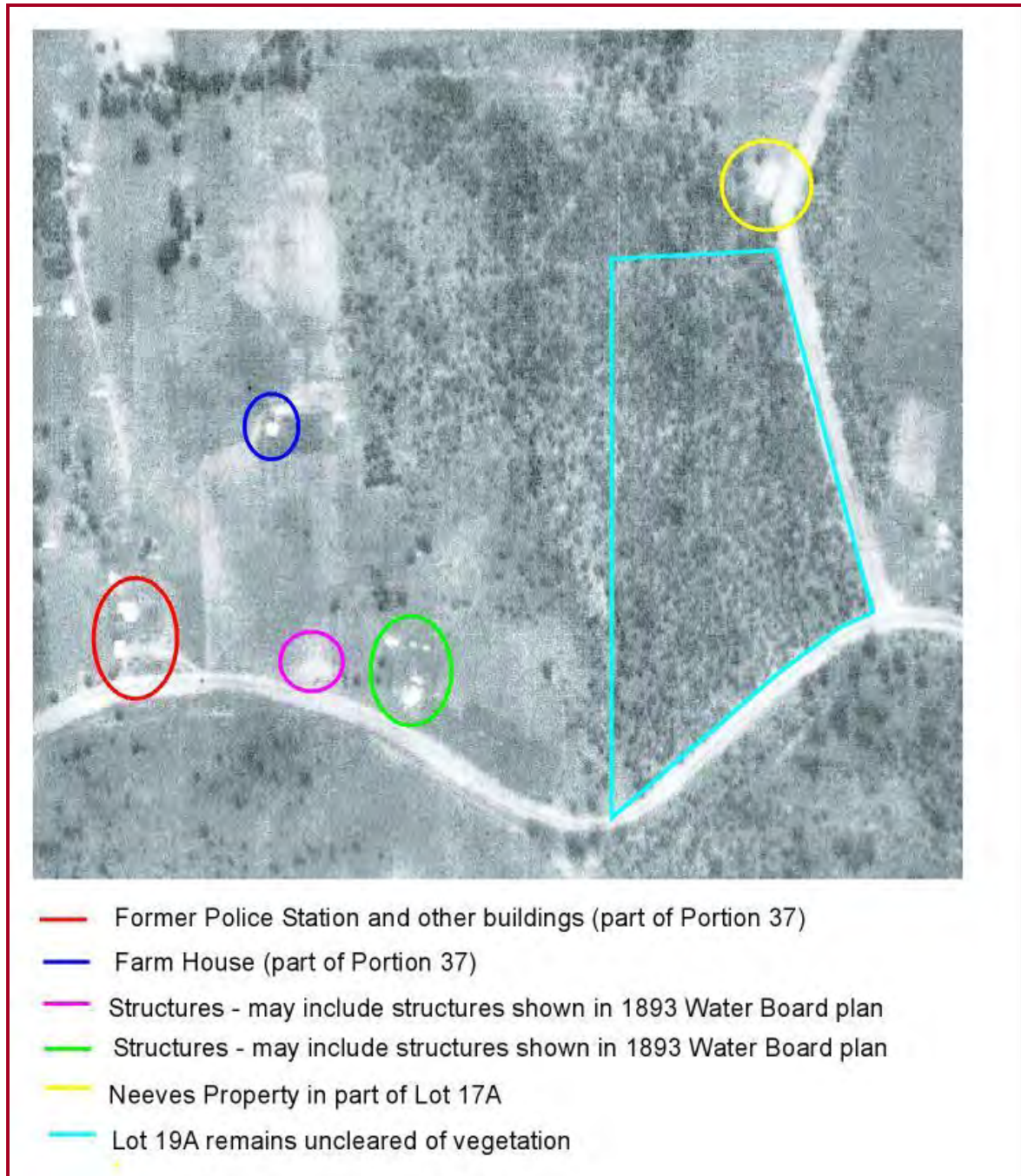


Figure 8 1930 aerial photograph indicating the location of buildings and other features of interest within the study area (source: NSW Department of Lands)



- Former Police Station with a building fronting the Western Road and a driveway. Also shows evidence of market gardening.
- Farm house with several ancillary structures, possibly including a chicken shed to the west of the main building. Also shows evidence of garden plantings and market gardening.
- Former location of buildings in 1930 aerial (now demolished), possibly replaced with advertising hoarding
- Complex of buildings in Lot 19. Additional structures may have been constructed since 1930
- Part of Lot 17A showing the former Neeves property and formal plantings
- Lot 19A partly cleared of vegetation with some Inter-War period structures and evidence of market gardening

Figure 9 1943 aerial photograph indicating the location of buildings and other features of interest within the study area (source: NSW Department of Lands).

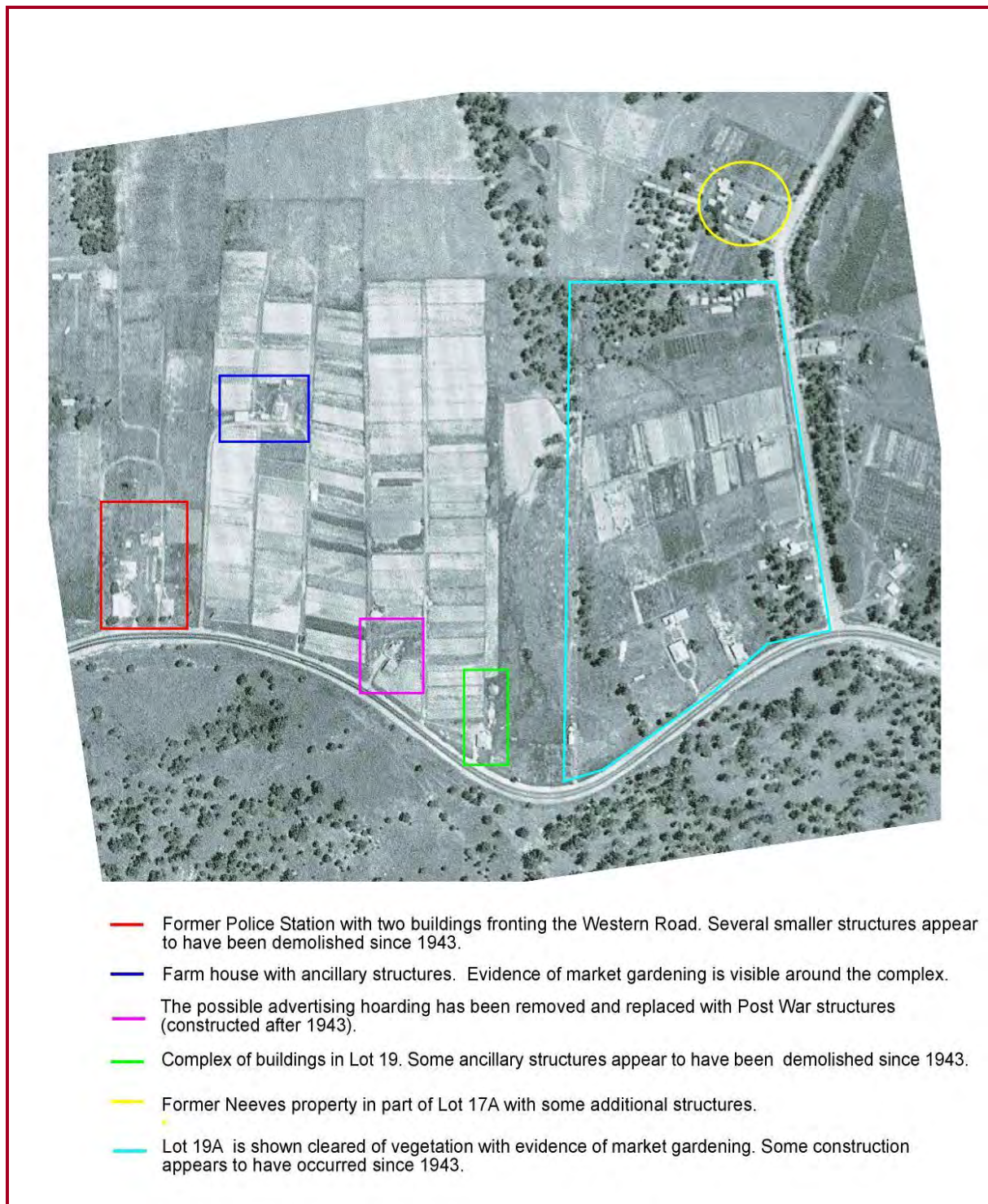


Figure 10 1956 aerial photograph indicating the location of buildings and other features of interest within the study area (source: NSW Department of Lands).

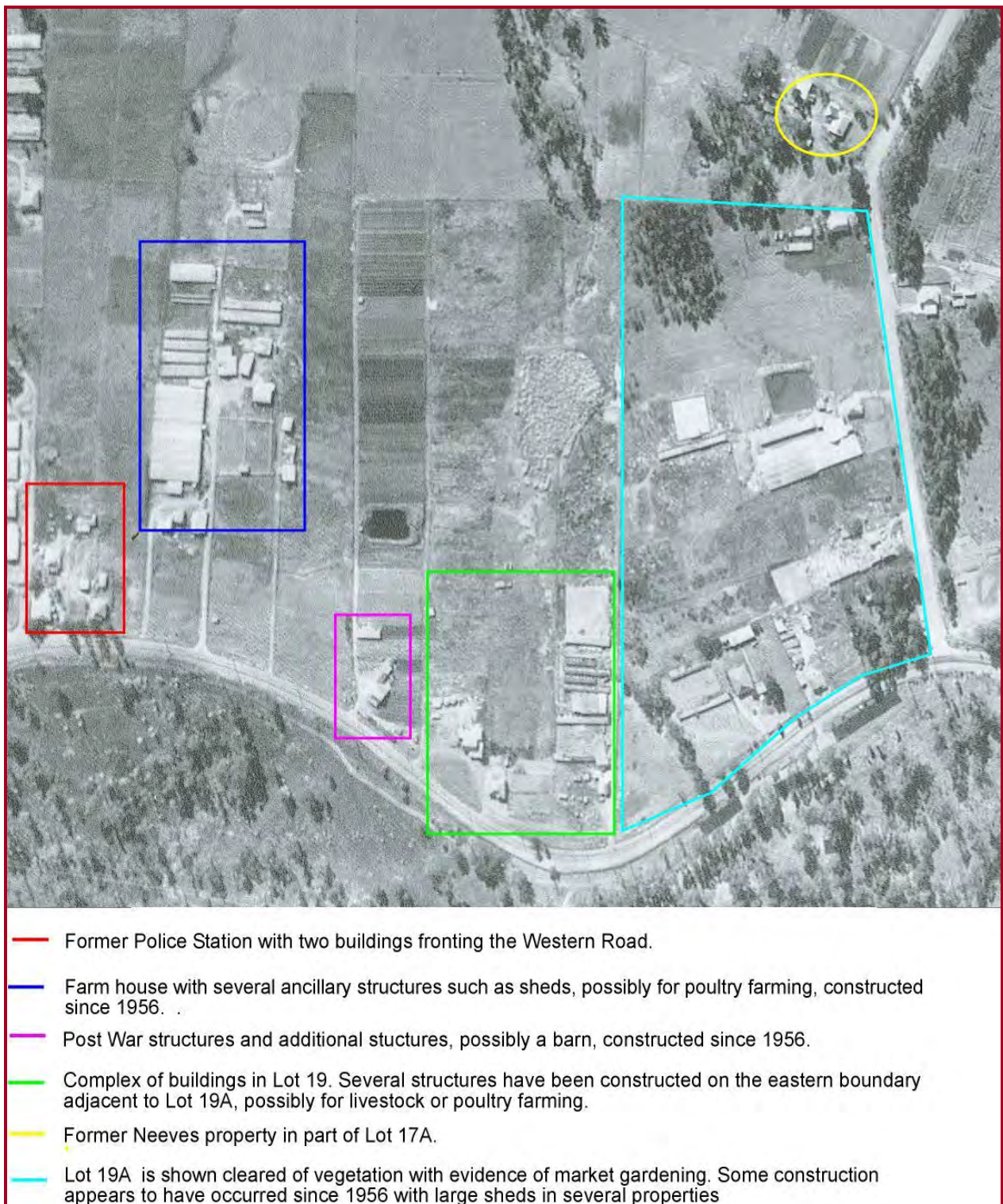


Figure 11 1970 aerial photograph indicating the location of buildings and other features of interest within the study area (source: NSW Department of Lands).

3.3 Analysis of Potential Archaeological Remains in the Study Area

Based on the contextual and site-specific history outlined above, there is potential for physical (archaeological) remains of historical occupation to exist in the study area. An analysis of the potential physical remains that may exist in the study area is outlined below.

The study area was sparsely occupied during the nineteenth century. Development of the study area principally occurred during the twentieth century, when portions were subdivided and allotments were purchased for agricultural and live stock farming. Twentieth century development of the study area resulted in the modification of the landscape such as excavation, grading and levelling and the construction of dams, demolition and construction of buildings and the development of market gardens.

Historical resources indicate parts of the study area were occupied on the Western Road (Reservoir Road) during the nineteenth century. These potential historical archaeological resources, should they have survived subsequent development in the area, may relate to the 'Old Barn' shown in a 1869 subdivision plan of the study area, occupation deposits or features relating to the former police cottage, remnant plantings relating to a the vineyard in shown in the 1879 subdivision plan and archaeological remains relating to the two features on the 1893 Water Board plan of the study area.

Other nineteenth century occupation of the study area may include temporary accommodation for labourers involved in the construction of the Prospect Reservoir. These may include features of temporary occupation such as hearths from camp sites.

The former Neeves family house and ancillary buildings situated in Lot 17A were demolished for the construction of the western motorway in the 1990s. Archaeological remains may exist in the north eastern part of the study area relating to the building and occupation of the allotment.

The Graham Brooks and Associates (2011) historical research of the study area (on which this report is based) did not identify the presence of Lethbridge's homestead complex, as described in an 1830 sale notice summarised above, within the study area. Lethbridge's estate was 2,000 acres and bound by the Western Road (Reservoir Road), Flushcombe Road and New Richmond Road. The homestead complex was likely located outside the study area.

The majority of the development at the study area, appears to have occurred during the twentieth century including the construction and some demolition of farm houses, cottages, and ancillary farm structures such as barns and sheds for livestock.

Other archaeological features that may exist in the study area includes fence lines, fence posts and farm equipment.

4. SITE INVESTIGATION

The study area was inspected by Laura Matarese and Graham Wilson (Consultants, AHMS) on 21 April 2011.

Visibility was low during the site inspection due to dense vegetation cover. The topography of the study area can be characterised as undulating with some hills appearing to have been formed due to earth moving processes in the recent past, such as for the construction of dams, the construction of buildings and market gardening.

Western Part of Portion 37- The former police station cottage

General Position: 33°48'27.46"S 150°54'28.34"E

Plates: **Figure 12 to Figure 16**

The area around the former police cottage was inspected for historical archaeological remains.

Historical archaeological remains of a structure, possibly a cottage used as Doyle's café or guest house, was evident immediately south of the former police cottage and fronting Reservoir Road. The area was approximately 38 m by 19 m. Fences, a gate, driveway, concrete slabs and a brick footing were evident during the inspection. The bricks appeared to be machine pressed and date from the mid to late twentieth century.

The former police cottage and several out buildings remain standing at the property. Although AHMS was unable to access the interior of the building, it is likely that underfloor deposits relating to the occupation of the cottage are likely to survive inside the cottage.

No evidence of historical archaeological remains was apparent immediately adjacent to the cottage. Some modern structures (including a fence, shed and carport) are located at the rear of the building. Introduced fill for recent grass beds and a gravel driveway are located at the rear and to the east of the cottage. The adjacent property (to the west) had cut a driveway adjacent to the fence line.

No remnant plantings relating to the vineyard shown in an 1879 subdivision plan or evidence of an 'Old Barn' shown in the 1869 subdivision plan were apparent during the site inspection. It is unlikely that any archaeological remains of the barn or vineyard survive at the study area due to subsequent development of the site.



Figure 12 Former police cottage (background) with remains of a cottage (foreground, left) and modern gravel driveway (foreground, right) looking north



Figure 13 Archaeological remains of a cottage fronting Western Road immediately south of the former police cottage looking south west showing fence, gates and concrete driveway.



Figure 14 *Brick footing constructed with mid to late twentieth century machine pressed bricks and concrete slab*



Figure 15 *Former Police cottage with introduced gravel fill for modern driveway.*



Figure 16 Rear of former police cottage looking toward modern gravel driveway looking south. No archaeological remains were apparent surrounding the property.

Eastern part of Portion 37 - Former farm house and complex

General Position: 33° 48' 27.80"S 150° 54' 31.10"E

Plates: **Figure 17** to **Figure 20**

Archaeological remains of the farm house and complex were evident during the site inspection. The remains include several concrete pads for a building (most likely constructed during the Post War period c. 1943-1960s) adjacent to a Cypress tree, introduced sand and fill to level the surface for the construction of buildings and building material consisting of machine pressed brick and concrete scattered throughout the paddock. These archaeological remains were in the vicinity of several exotic plantings associated with the house, such as the Cypress tree. Some exotic plantings are visible in the 1943 aerial photograph of the study area.

Introduced clay was evident in the area to the west of the farm in the vicinity of the poultry farm sheds (c. 1970). The introduced clay may have been used as a dirt floor for the sheds or used as fill to level the site.



Figure 17 Location of archaeological remains of the farm house complex in the vicinity of exotic plantings including a Cypress Tree (foreground), looking north east



Figure 18 Location of a concrete pad (c. post 1940s) that is likely to relate to one of the farm house complex buildings, looking north east



Figure 19 Detail of concrete pad c. 1943-1960s adjacent to the Cypress tree.



Figure 20 *Introduced clay, likely to be associated with poultry farming c. 1970 to the west of the farm house complex (looking north west)*

Lot 19 and Lot 19A

General Location: 33° 48'31.13"S 150° 54'33.12"E

Plates: **Figure 21 to Figure 22**

Remains of five timber posts were observed during the site inspection in a paddock fronting Reservoir Road. They may relate to an advertising hoarding sign (c. 1943) or ancillary buildings relating to the Post War development of the allotment.

General Location: 33° 48'34.06"S 150° 54'36.46"E

Plates: **Figure 23 to Figure 34**

No evidence of historical archaeological remains was apparent for the structures indicated in the 1893 Water Board plan or the structures in the 1930 aerial photograph.

The area appears to have been graded for subsequent development. This is particularly noticeable at the eastern property where one a cottage and shed visible in the 1970s aerial photograph remains standing at the site. The area has been graded for a modern driveway and to level the site for the construction of the cottage and sheds.

General Location: 33° 48'31.28"S 150° 54'48.46"E

Plates: **Figure 25 and Figure 26**

No evidence of archaeological remains in Lot 19A were apparent during the site inspection, however the area was densely vegetated and visibility was low. Several dilapidated timber sheds and a cottage were observed.



Figure 21 Timber posts in paddock located adjacent to Reservoir Road looking north



Figure 22 Timber posts in paddock located adjacent to Reservoir Road in relation to a fence line looking north



Figure 23 Driveway to remaining cottage



Figure 24 Remaining cottage and shed in the general location of the structure in the 1893 Water Board plan and 1930s aerial photograph.



Figure 25 View west of Lot 19A with dilapidated shed in background



Figure 26 View north west of Lot 19A with cottage and shed still in use

Part of Lot 17A - Former Neeves' Family Property

General Location: 33° 48'22.06"S 150° 54'48.83"E

Plates: **Figure 27**

No archaeological remains of the Neeves home or ancillary building were apparent during the site inspection. It is likely these structures were demolished and any archaeological remains removed due to the construction of the motorway and services (including a drainage pipe).



Figure 27 General location of former Neeves property Lot 17A . No archaeological remains were apparent due to disturbance from subsequent development

5. PRELIMINARY SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT & CONCLUSIONS

Based on the site specific history of the study area and the results of the site inspection, several areas of historical archaeological resources were identified at the study area. These archaeological resources include:

- Structural remains of a mid twentieth century cottage fronting Reservoir Road, south of the former police cottage;
- Structural remains and exotic plantings of a mid twentieth century farm house complex within Lot C, formerly of Portion 37;
- Remnants of timber posts, possible associated with mid twentieth century advertising hoarding or post war out buildings such as a shed or barn; and
- Potential archaeological resources, such as occupational deposits, that may also exist below the interior floor of the former police cottage.

The site inspection indicated that the study area has been heavily modified by excavation, cutting, grading and filling works undertaken during past development episodes. It is considered to be unlikely that potential archaeological resources, other those identified above, survive at the site.

The scope of work for this preliminary assessment does not include detailed heritage significance assessment of identified archaeological resources within the study area. However, taking into consideration the research and site inspection results it is not considered likely that any archaeological remains associated with the previous farm uses of the study area, the remains of a cottage fronting Reservoir Road immediately south of the former police cottage or the remains of the timber posts adjacent to Reservoir Road would be considered as significant relics. Such remains are not considered to be rare, nor are they assessed as having significant scientific, aesthetic, social or representative heritage values. They are unlikely to be of local or State heritage significance and so they are unlikely to fall within the definition of a 'relic', as defined by the *Heritage Act*.

It is likely that potential archaeological resources (deposits and objects) that may survive within the interior of the former police cottage may be of State or local heritage significance. As a result, such remains (if they exist) may constitute 'relics' as defined by the *Heritage Act 1977*. Accordingly, the former Police Cottage should be assessed in greater detail prior to future development that may result in a loss of its heritage significance.

Recommendations derived from the above conclusions are presented in the following section.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The baseline archaeological impact assessment identified physical remains of historical occupation in the study area including:
 - a) Structural remains of a mid twentieth century cottage fronting Reservoir Road, south of the former police cottage;
 - b) Structural remains and exotic plantings of a mid twentieth century farm house complex within Lot C, formerly of Portion 37; and
 - c) Remnants of timber posts, possible associated with mid twentieth century advertising hoarding or post war out buildings such as a shed or barn.
2. This assessment concludes that the remains of historical occupation described at 1 a-c (above) are unlikely to have State or local heritage significance. As a result, the remains are not considered to be 'relics', as defined by the *Heritage Act 1977*.
3. Potential relics may survive below the interior of the former police cottage study area, however this area was unable to be inspected. These potential relics may be of State and local heritage significance and so they may be 'relics' as defined by the *Heritage Act 1977*.
4. It is considered to be unlikely that potential historical archaeological 'relics' survive elsewhere within the study area.
5. It is understood that as part of the Applicants Statement of Commitments for the proposed development of the Wet 'n' Wild water theme park, the former police cottage is to be retained.
6. As a result, there are no immediate potential impacts of proposed development of the Wet 'n' Wild theme park on potential relics within the former police cottage.
7. If conservation of the police cottage, or any other form of development of that cottage is proposed in future, it will be necessary to undertake an archaeological assessment of the impact of such a proposal to ensure that significant relics associated with past occupation of the cottage are not disturbed by development.
8. No further historical archaeological assessment of proposed development in the study area appears to be warranted.

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