



Eastern Creek Quarantine Station
60 Wallgrove Road, Minchinbury
Heritage and European Archaeological
Assessment

March 2009

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

City Plan Heritage has been engaged by ICPS, on behalf of the owners of the Eastern Creek Quarantine Station to prepare a Heritage Assessment and preliminary European Archaeological Assessment of the property at 60 Wallgrove Road, Minchinbury, known as Eastern Creek Quarantine Station.

The property comprises 22 hectares of land leased by The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) from Afteron Pty Ltd for use as a Quarantine Station with a quantity of facilities for housing dogs, cats, bees and horses as well as greenhouses and open areas for plants. Buildings on the site also exist for housing staff and treating animals. Afteron Pty Ltd is seeking approval under Part 3A of the EP&A Act 1979, from the NSW Department of Planning, via a "Concept Plan" for the above property to be rezoned as a General Industrial (N1) zoning. As part of the rezoning application, an environmental assessment for the property will be required and this Heritage Assessment Report comprises part of that report.

1.2 SITE LOCATION

The subject site" is located on the western side of Wallgrove Road in Minchinbury to the north of its intersection with the M4 Western Motorway. The real property description of the site is Lot 1 of Deposited Plan 1040948. For a more detailed description of the site and its context, see section 2.0 – Item Description and Context.

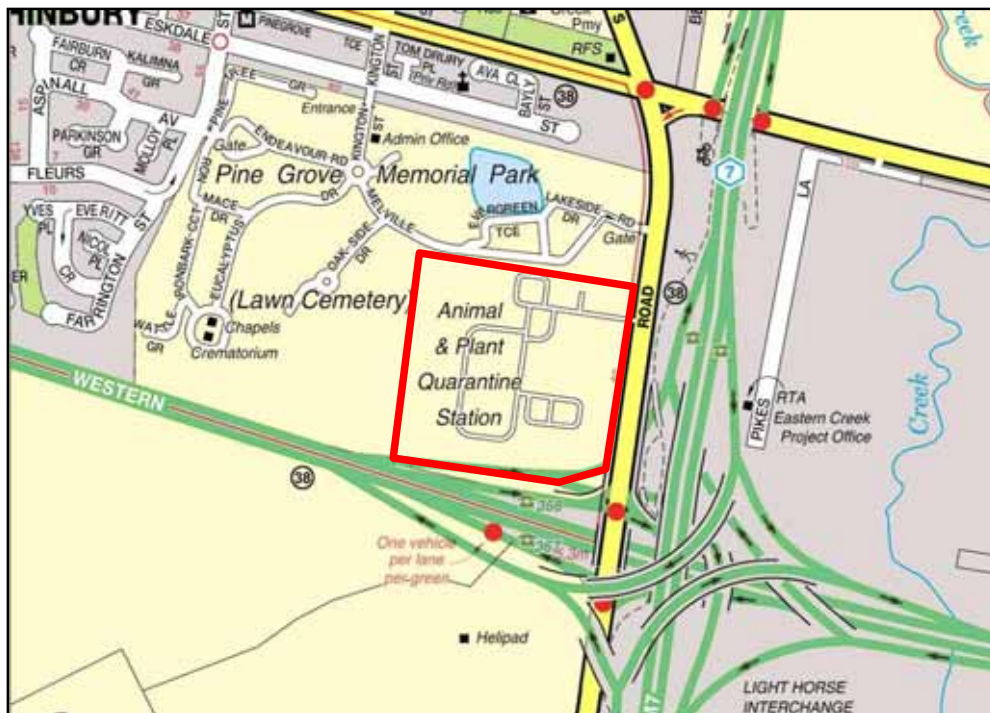


Figure 1: Location of the subject site with red line marking the property boundary
(Source: UBD Digital Street Mapping)



Figure 2: Aerial views of the subject site,
(Source: Top aerial obtained from Google Maps, Bottom aerial from AQIS NSW Eastern Creek Quarantine Station)

1.3 METHODOLOGY

This Heritage Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines in the *NSW Heritage Manual* 'Assessing Heritage Significance'. The Assessment of European Archaeological Significance has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines issued in the *NSW Heritage Manual* 'Archaeological Assessments'.

1.4 AUTHOR IDENTIFICATION

The following report has been written by Gina Scheer (Heritage Consultant) and Kerime Danis (Manager) who also reviewed and endorsed its content. The various sources researched for the History of the site are included in the Bibliography.

1.5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The assistance of Elizabeth Roberts, librarian at the Heritage Branch of the NSW Department of Planning, and Denis Gojak of Banksia Heritage + Archaeology is gratefully acknowledged.

1.6 LIMITATIONS

Due to the active program of quarantine at the subject site and related issues of health and safety, the site inspection on Monday 16th February, 2009 was confined to the pathways through and around the plant and animal quarantine areas with no access into the buildings themselves. The Back Paddock and Entrance areas were freely accessible for our site survey, however, the muddy conditions due to the rain on that day and preceding days as well as the knee high grass in some area restricted the visibility and access to some areas of the Back Paddock. The Quarantine Detector Dog kennelling area was also not accessible. However, the confined access did not constrain the Heritage findings and conclusions for this report.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION AND CONTEXT

2.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

The subject site is 22 hectares in size and is situated on the western side of Wallgrove Road at Eastern Creek, between the Great Western Highway to the north and the M4 Westlink Motorway from Sydney to the south.

The subject site has operated as part of the Commonwealth Quarantine Service since 1979, when it was opened as the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS) Eastern Creek Plant and Animal Quarantine Station. AQIS currently operates three animal quarantine stations throughout Australia. These are the subject site at Eastern Creek; Spotswood Animal Quarantine Station at 43-47 Craig Street, Spotswood, Victoria; and the Byford Animal Quarantine Station at 106 Nettleton Road, Byford, Western Australia.



Figure 3: AQIS Spotswood Animal Quarantine Station.
Source: AQIS website,
<http://www.daffa.gov.au/aqis/>



Figure 4: AQIS Byford Animal Quarantine Station.
Source: AQIS website,
<http://www.daffa.gov.au/aqis/>

The Eastern Creek Quarantine Station houses three units including Post Entry Plant Quarantine (PEPQ), Post Entry Animal Quarantine (PEAQ) and the Quarantine Detector Dog Unit (DDU) as well as the associated administrative and staff accommodation facilities. The site is accessed from Wallgrove Road via a secure gate and its boundaries are generally defined by high cyclone wire & barbed fencing. Remnants of earlier concrete post and wire-mesh fence has been observed on the outer side of the high fencing particularly along Western Highway boundary of the site to the south.

The built elements are densely placed relatively in the centre of the site towards the northeast end with wide paddocks along the west and south providing separation from the adjoining cemetery and the highway. The site can be described in distinct five sections due to their primary function, type of common structures and landscape/topography. These sections are:

- Plant Quarantine Station area,
- Horse stable blocks,
- Cats and Dogs kennels,
- Back paddocks, and
- Residential area

PLANT QUARANTINE STATION (PQS) AREA

The Plant Quarantine Station area occupies the northwest of the site to the south of the main entrance driveway (Evans Way), which separates it from the residential area on further north. The plant quarantine area comprises an administrative office including laboratory and staff amenities, a large potting building (workshed), and a number of shade houses and green houses. The primary function of the PQS is described as to provide and maintain secure plant containment facilities for the import of high-risk plant introductions. The facility specialises in quarantine of citrus species, stone fruit, grapes, clonal grasses and various seed lines. The existing structures within the PQS area date from the 1997-99 and are typical of their style with no particular or special architectural value.

The administration and laboratory building is an L-shaped single storey face brick building with hipped corrugated metal roofing. A veranda with skillion roof protects the walkway on the southeast side of the building where a landscaped courtyard is located for the use of staff. The glass houses are of steel constructions with curved (segmental arched) roof shape placed in single or group of two rows over concrete slabs. They feature metal panelled base and screen windows all around the large shed-like space, and screen roofing over curved steel trusses. Ventilation is provided either by louvered gable windows at both ends of the glasshouse or by the elevated ceiling. The shade houses are of large rectangular tent-like steel structures with concrete slabs. The landscape around the PQS area is generally grassed uneven land with a number of small creeks or gullies, culverts for controlled drainage and limited trees/plantings.

A visitor and staff car park is located at the northwest of the administration building between the Animal Quarantine Office (AQO) to the west and Bee House to the south. The AQO is separated by cyclone wire mesh fencing, which is used throughout the site in the provision of secure quarantine areas, from the car park so as the Bee House. The Bee House is also a single-storey face brick building with typical of 1970s-80s design. It comprises three interconnected stepping buildings of rectangular shape and pitched metal roofs with the large central main building and smaller wings at each end. A large metal custom orb Potting

Building is located approximately in the centre of the Plant Quarantine Station area. It is a typical of large single span rectangular shed in hangar style interior that is supported on steel beam and column frame with gabled roof and steel fascia. It features loading door style entrances on north and south ends with an awning on the north end. It is used as workshop, storage and potting.



Figure 5: General views of the Plant Quarantine Station administration and laboratory building showing the publicly accessible main entrance and the car park, and the staff courtyard within the secured area of the Plant Quarantine Station



Figure 6: Green Houses and Shade Houses within the Plant Quarantine Station with an internal view in the insert



Figure 7: Views of the Potting Building and the general topography and land formation within the secured area of the Plant Quarantine Station showing small creeks and series of culverts (top left to the left image)



Figure 8: The Bee House and general landscaping within the secured area of the Plant Quarantine Station (above left, above & left)



HORSE STABLES BLOCKS

The Horse Stable blocks occupy a large portion of the used areas of the Eastern Creek Quarantine Station site and are located on the western side of the developed area of the site. Metal clad prefabricated stables are placed in seven separate rows of which six of them are the same size with one smaller stable to the south of the block. The stable structures are described as being made of laminated timber walls clad with metal for the comfort and safety of the horses. A number of metal fenced exercise yards, metal covered decagonal and timber fenced corrals are located between and around the stables. Concrete paths and bitumen driveways provide easy access between the stations and buildings throughout the site, which is generally covered by grassed areas.

The Animal Quarantine administration building is also a rectangular single-storey face brick building with flat roof and large floor to ceiling glazing panels on each long elevation. A number of service and amenities buildings are scattered within the horse stables block including horse surgery, old (disused) incinerator, above ground fuel tank, water tower, brick workshops and storage, and loading ramps. Cattle yards are located on the northern end of the block.



Figure 9: The Animal Quarantine Station building with metal clad sheds accommodating the security office and showers



Figure 10: The machinery and storage sheds, and above ground fuel tank within north-eastern portion of the horse stables site



Figure 11: Various brick sheds and loading ramp within the cattle yards



Figure 12: General view of the stables block showing one of the covered decagonal stable and general arrangements of the buildings, fences and bitumen driveways



Figure 13: Concrete three-sided storage and loading areas (left), and timber fenced corrals (right)



Figure 14: General view of the stables with brick three-sided washing area



Figure 15: Remnant concrete slab of removed covered decagonal stable (left), and timber fenced corrals



Figure 16: Close-up view of the metal clad prefabricated stables with awning, and the brick wash area



Figure 17: Metal clad decagonal covered stable (left), and brick building for horse grooms accommodation

CATS AND DOGS KENNELS

The Eastern Creek Quarantine Station comprises purpose built and specially designed brick & wire mesh cat cages, and rabbit proof dog kennels on the south-eastern side of the site. The back paddocks provide buffer zone from Wallgrove Road and Western Motorway. The northeast corner of the cats & dogs block is designated for Quarantine Detector Dog kennelling facility and secured by high metal fence. Access to this secured area is restricted. The dog kennels are brick structures with shallow pitched metal roofs and wire mesh fenced yards on either side of the building. The dog kennels are double sided similar to the cat cages.



Figure 18: General views of the specially designed cat cages in rows of double-sided brick buildings



Figure 19: General views of the dog kennels in rows of double-sided brick buildings with associated fenced yards on either side (top right & above), services and amenities building within the cats & dogs kennels area (top left)

BACK Paddock

Back paddock is unused and provides buffer between the neighbouring Pine Grove Memorial Park (Lawn Cemetery), Western Motorway, Wallgrove Road and the Quarantine Station site. The paddock area is generally grassed with flat surface and features various type of trees, two small dams/ponds and water courses. A disused sand dressage area and a rounded hillock associated with burial are located on the southern side of the back paddock along Western (M4) Motorway. A number of timber post and wire fence remnants, asphalt slab pieces and burned timber remains, however; they do not possess any archaeological importance or heritage value as they appear from recent dates (Figure 20).



Figure 20: General views of the Back Paddock along the Lawn Cemetery boundary on the west of the site showing burned timber remains (top left), trees, water course, timber post & wire fence remnants (above left & right) and dams.



Figure 21: Disused sand dressage area with timber paling edging on the southern side back paddock



Figure 22: View from the back paddock to the cats & dogs kennels area (left), and rounded hillock associated with animal burial on the southern side back paddock (right)



Figure 23: Concrete post & wire mesh fencing outside of the cyclone wire mesh fence line of the Quarantine Station's M4 Motorway boundary (above left); view of the same boundary fence line from the back paddock (above right & right)





Figure 24: View from the dam and surrounding back paddock

RESIDENTIAL AREA

The residential area comprises three face brick houses that were originally built for senior staff of the Eastern Creek Quarantine Station in 1980. They are placed in a cul-de-sac form on the north side of the main entrance driveway. The houses combine private yards to the rear that are defined and secured by wire mesh high fencing. The front of the houses present a typical of suburban open garden landscape with low height timber post and rail fencing and limited garden plantings. The houses are typical of 1980s residential constructions with no particular reference to an architectural style or technological achievement of the period. At the time of the site visit for the purpose of the preparation of this report only one of the houses was under occupation, however, access to the interiors were not available. The interiors have been observed from the windows, which provided necessary information for the assessment of these houses.



Figure 25: General views of the three residential houses that were built in 1980 for the senior staff of the Quarantine Station



Figure 26: View from the three houses from the entrance driveway. The plant Quarantine Station and the visitor car park are on the left

2.2 SITE CONTEXT

The Eastern Creek Quarantine Station is located on the northwest of the intersection of two major arterial roads – the Western Motorway (M4) and Wallgrove Road. M7 Motorway is just on the east of Wallgrove Road. The immediate surroundings of the site with the exception of north-western area are generally undeveloped rural lands comprising Wonderland Theme Park (now closed) on the south side of M4 Motorway, open farmland and native bushland to the east; part grounds of the former Wallgrove Army Camp to the southeast of the Motorways' intersection, and Pine Gove Memorial Park (Lawn Cemetery) on the west and north of the site. The nearby residential suburbs are Minchinbury on the west and Eastern Creek further to the east of the Creek. Great Western Highway is also located on further north of the site.



Figure 27: Aerial view of the immediate site context sourced from Google - the Eastern Creek Quarantine Station is marked as 'A' in red drop.

3.0 HISTORY

3.1 SUMMARY

The Eastern Creek Quarantine Station comprises 22 hectares of the former 195 hectares of the Commonwealth Government owned Wallgrove Army Depot. Prior to the establishment of the Quarantine Station on the site in the late 1970s, it was part of the north-western section of the Wallgrove Army Depot. The depot, or camp, was formally established as a staging and training area in 1941, during the years of World War II. After the war, the camp was maintained firstly as an army wireless chain and then amended for use as a migrant hostel during the 1950s. In the 1960s and early 1970s the camp continued to be used as a training area for cadets as part of the Commonwealth Military Force Exercises. There was no information located during the historical research to suggest the construction or placement of buildings on the subject site earlier than that of the c.1940s Army Camp.

3.2 EARLY OWNERSHIP OF THE SITE

The subject site was originally part of the land of the Aboriginal people of the Western Cumberland Plain, referred to as the Darug. The three Clans of the Blacktown area included the Gomerigal in the South Creek area; the Wawarawarry around Eastern Creek; and Warmuli around Prospect. Archaeological evidence of their settlement has been found along creeks in the area.¹

In February 1791, Governor Phillip granted land to 13 people at Prospect Hill. These were the first land grants in the Blacktown District. Governor Macquarie opened up more land grants in the area for settlers after the crossing of the Blue Mountains in 1813 and the construction of the road east from Emu Plains to Parramatta (Great Western Highway) which passed over both Ropes Creek and Eastern Creek north of the subject site. Macquarie's first grants were made to government officials. The 22 hectare area of the subject site comprised most of the 60 acre (24.2811 hectare) land grant made to William Brown in September 1818.



Figure 28:
c.1830-1850s
Parish Map of
Melville showing
land grants and
landforms. The
subject site is
indicated.

Source: Land &
Property Information
NSW series No.
14060401.

¹ Blacktown history online

William Brown's 60 acres of land encompassing the subject site (Figure 28) became subsumed into William Minchin's land ownership during 1830-31. William Minchin was a military officer appointed by Governor King in 1804 as Engineer and Artillery Officer in Sydney. In 1818 he retired with plans to be a permanent settler and the following year Governor Macquarie granted him 1000 acres which he called 'Minchinbury'. Minchin established a homestead there, he married and had a daughter, Maria. Following his death in 1821 Maria married a Henry Howey in 1826 and continued to live on the estate. Under the terms of William Minchin's will his brother George, a member of the New Brunswick Canadian Legislative Council, became the legal inheritor of the vast estate following the deaths of William's wife and daughter. During the late 1830s George Minchin contested a claim by John Werge Howey, brother of Henry Howey, deceased husband of Maria Minchin (also deceased) that he was entitled to the estate, see Figure 29 below. However, William Minchin's will was clear and John Howey finally agreed, for the consideration of five pounds, to release all right and claims to the property. In 1859 George Minchin appointed John Nodes Dickinson, a NSW Supreme Court judge as his trustee for the estate and in February Judge Dickinson sold the 1220 acres of the Minchinbury Estate for £2,100. This sale included the land of the subject site. The purchaser was Dr Charles Mackay, a medical practitioner from Kilrea in Ireland. During the 1860s he became the largest landowner in the area and it was under his ownership that grape vines were first planted on the Minchinbury Estate.² By 1879 the wines from Minchinbury received three awards at the Sydney Garden Palace exhibition.³

'Wallgrove' gets its name from Lieutenant Colonel William Wall of the 3rd Regiment who arrived in NSW in 1822. Colonel Wall remained in the colony and retired as a settler. In 1827 he purchased land along Eastern Creek from a Thomas Brown. He named the property Wallgrove Estate and the name became used for the area which was not part of the Minchinbury farm at that time.



Figure 29: 1900 Parish of Melville Map showing the land grants with Howey's name on part of the Minchinbury acreage and 'Wallgrove Estate' named over Eastern Creek. The subject site is indicated.

Source: Land & Property Information NSW series

² G. Nicolaides, 63-64

³ A. Sharpe, 2000, 51

In 1881 Dr McKay put his extensive properties in the area, comprising land at Rooty Hill, the Minchinbury Estate and Lucan Park, up for auction. The advertisement by Charles Moore & Co, Auctioneers described Minchinbury as follows:

*"a superior brick built two-story residence, quite new containing 28 apartments. 600 hundred acres in various sizes could be sold in sections if desirable. Minchinbury embraces 60 acres of enclosed land, and planted with about 50,000 vines in full bearing ...A trap dike of blue metal runs through the Minchinbury from west to east which will be invaluable to parties contracting for blue metal for Sydney Streets. There is also a hill of trap tuff, the deposit from an extinct volcano. This is hard and durable stone used for some years on a portion of the Great Western Road. A tramway could be inexpensively made from the quarries to Rooty Hill station. Fine clay for brick making and good building sandstone can also be obtained. There are three wine cellars, two sixty feet by twenty, one sixty by thirty, capable of storing one hundred thousand gallons of wine and wells, tanks and lagoons with never failing supply of water."*⁴

Despite this publicity the land did not sell until 1895, when Dr McKay was able to sell all of it to James Angus. It does not appear that the 'trap dike of blue metal' was quarried, and the only activities associated with the Minchinbury Estate were vine growing, dairy farming and fencing. The Angus family retained and extended the vineyards and established a successful champagne industry on the estate. In 1913 the family sold the estate to Penfold & Company who continued to cultivate the vineyard until 1978.⁵ The Angus family retained the remainder of the estate, including the area of the subject site, until the Government acquisition in 1941.



Figure 30: January 1938 Plan with subject site indicated on William Brown's 60 acres within numbered allotment 17. Compare with the 1941 military resumption map at Figure 31 - overleaf.
Source: Land & Property Information NSW series

⁴ Blacktown History online, <http://www.itmcgowan.net/blacktown/heritageb.php>

⁵ A. Sharpe, 2000, 51

3.3 WALLGROVE ARMY DEPOT

In October 1941 the Commonwealth Government acquired 483 acres (195.463 hectares) for the establishment of an Army Camp, with £12,112 the price paid for the land. The area encompassed portions 16 and 17 (Figures 30 & 31 above and below) including the 90 acres (36.4217 hectares) of the Minchinbury Paddocks which belonged to John Henry Smith Angus. This land was located on the west side of Wallgrove Road, encompassing the subject site, together with an equally large area on the east side of Wallgrove Road. The Government proceeded with the “urgent establishment of the Wallgrove Army Camp”.⁶ The Camp, one of many such as Holbrook and Ingleburn in the wider area, was used primarily as a staging and training camp for army units prior to despatch overseas for active service. Provision was made for the location of 5,000 men at the Camp. After the war years, the Camp was used as a Migrant Hostel and then again for military training and exercises by a range of Army units.

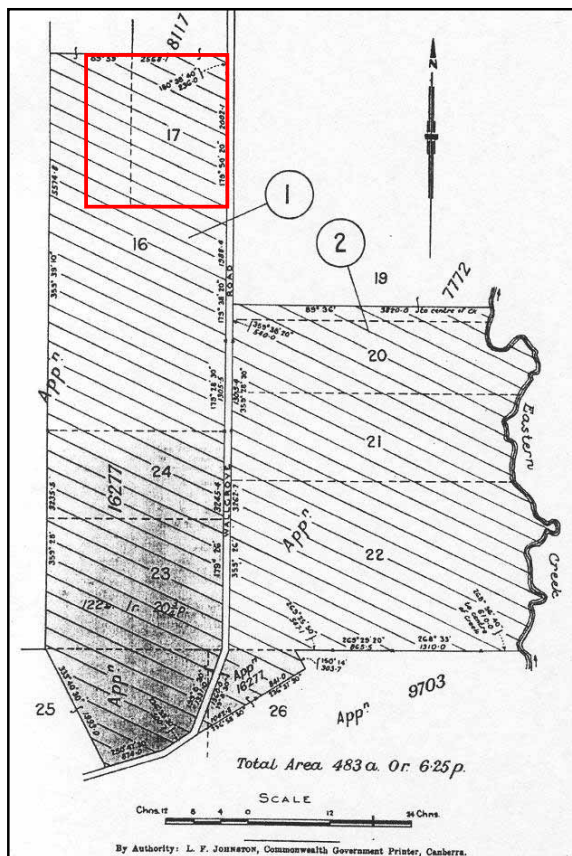


Figure 31: 1941 Military Resumptions of the 483 acres for the Wallgrove Army Camp. The approximate area of the subject site is indicated on Portion 17.

Source: Land Titles Office Deposited Plan 84831, also in the Commonwealth Gazette, reproduced in Casey & Lowe Eastern Creek Strategic Land use Study, 2002, 52

The establishment of the army camp at Wallgrove necessitated facilities such as bringing in an electricity supply to the area for the first time and erecting four streetlights. A Wallgrove Army Camp Post Office was established and located near the south west main entrance to the Camp off Wallgrove Road (not on the subject site), along with four public telephone boxes outside it.⁷ In 1941 the planting of trees and shrubs at the Camp has also been recorded,

⁶ G. Nicolaides, 1998, 104

⁷ Op cit.

“during the first year the Commandant ordered native and exotic tree species to plant in the camp.”⁸ In 1946, “more trees were ordered to line the main routes in the camp”⁹ which has been referred to in the Army records as the “beautification of the training camp”.¹⁰ A recreation hall was erected in the Camp in 1944 and a hospital block was also erected with additions made to it later in 1944¹¹. An open air cinema was also in operation at the Camp during the war years, which was run by the YMCA then and later during the migrant camp years as well.¹² The Wallgrove Army Camp remained as a military establishment until the 1970s, although it was used as the Wallgrove Migrant Hostel during the 1950s.

From studying the plans and aerial photographs it is clear that the greater proportion of the Wallgrove Army Camp was located to the south of the subject site. Part of that area became in recent years the Western M4 Motorway and before that it was the northern section of Australia’s Wonderland Theme Park. This was constructed in 1985 on 219 hectares (541.160 acres) land located on the south side of the subject site adjacent to the Western M4 Motorway intersection with Wallgrove Road and the Westlink M7 Motorway.

The reproduced plan of the site below, together with the aerial photographs from 1943 and 1951, indicate that during the Wallgrove Army Camp era, the area of the subject site was nominated as the ‘space for up to 5,000 men accommodated in tents’. The aerials taken in 1943 and 1951 (shown overleaf) also indicate that apart from Army structures and roads, the land appears to have remained largely cleared with some patches of vegetation.¹³

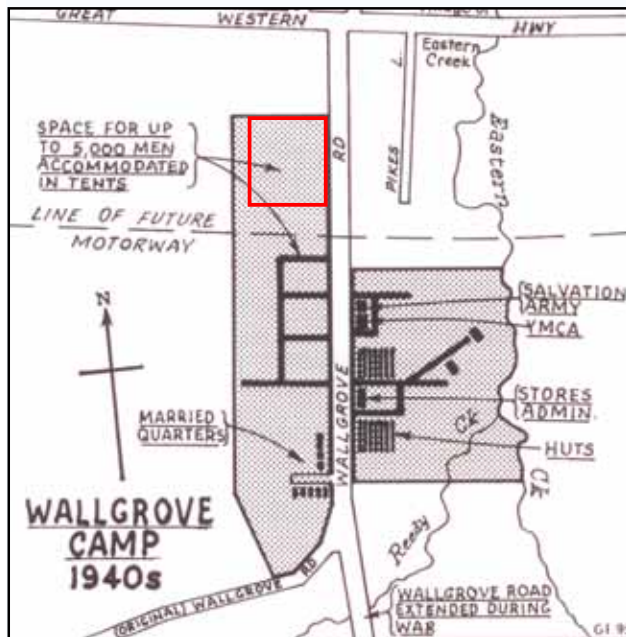


Figure 32: Plan of the Wallgrove Army Camp in the 1940s with the Eastern Creek Quarantine Station site indicated. Compare this plan with the aerial photographs on the following pages.

Source: Quarterly Journal Blacktown & District Historical Society Vol 15, No 3, Winter 1995, The end of World War II, 1945: a time to remember pp 51-66. Map drawn by Gerard Imer.

⁸ National Archives of Australia record SP1008/1 Item 420/20/216 quoted in Banksia Heritage report, 2003, 8

⁹ Op cit

¹⁰ National Archives of Australia records search Barcode 1147941 and 52.

¹¹ National Archives of Australia records search Barcode 1147946 and 47

¹² Op cit, 114

¹³ AMAC Report, December 1997, 12



Figure 33: A 1943 Aerial Photograph of Site with current digitised land titles and roads. The area of the subject site is indicated in the yellow square. Below, detailed sections of the aerial, showing Army Camp infrastructure that may still exist.

Source - NSW Department of Lands SIX Viewer © six.nsw.gov.au, Sydney - Newcastle Aerial photos (Ausimage © SKM 2008, 1943 Sydney suburbs - Ausimage © SKM 2007 from RTA photography

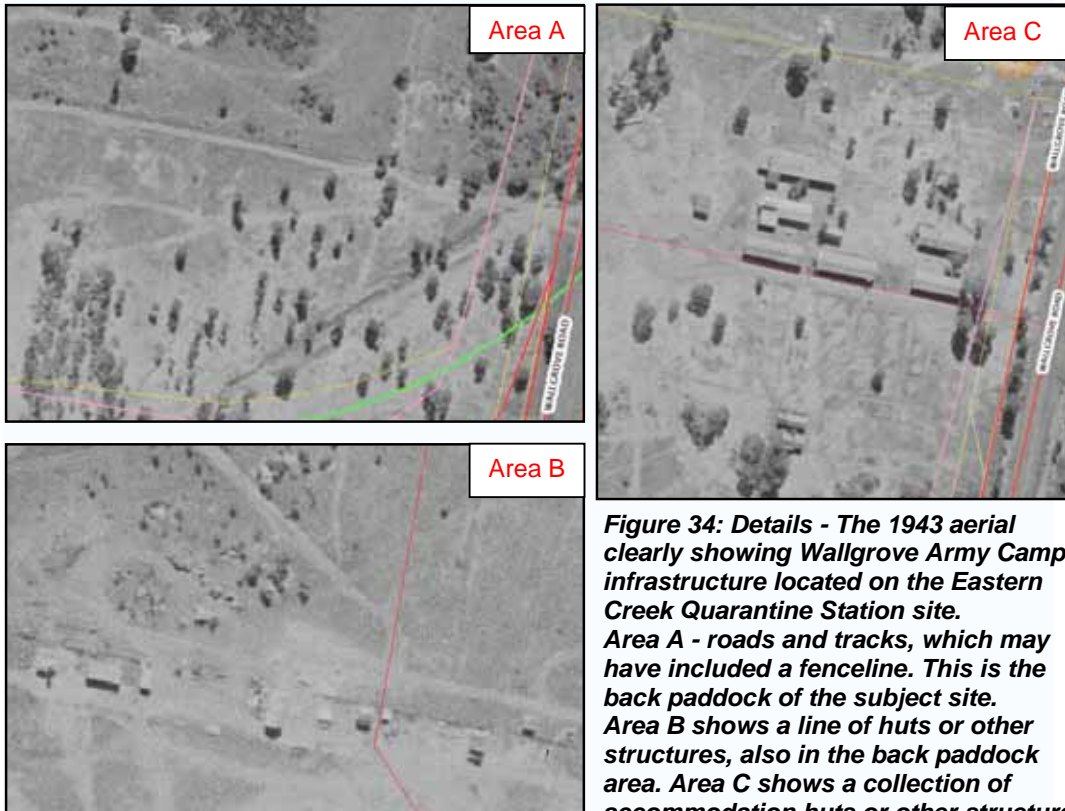


Figure 34: Details - The 1943 aerial clearly showing Wallgrove Army Camp infrastructure located on the Eastern Creek Quarantine Station site. Area A - roads and tracks, which may have included a fenceline. This is the back paddock of the subject site. Area B shows a line of huts or other structures, also in the back paddock area. Area C shows a collection of accommodation huts or other structures in the area where the three 1970s residences are now located.

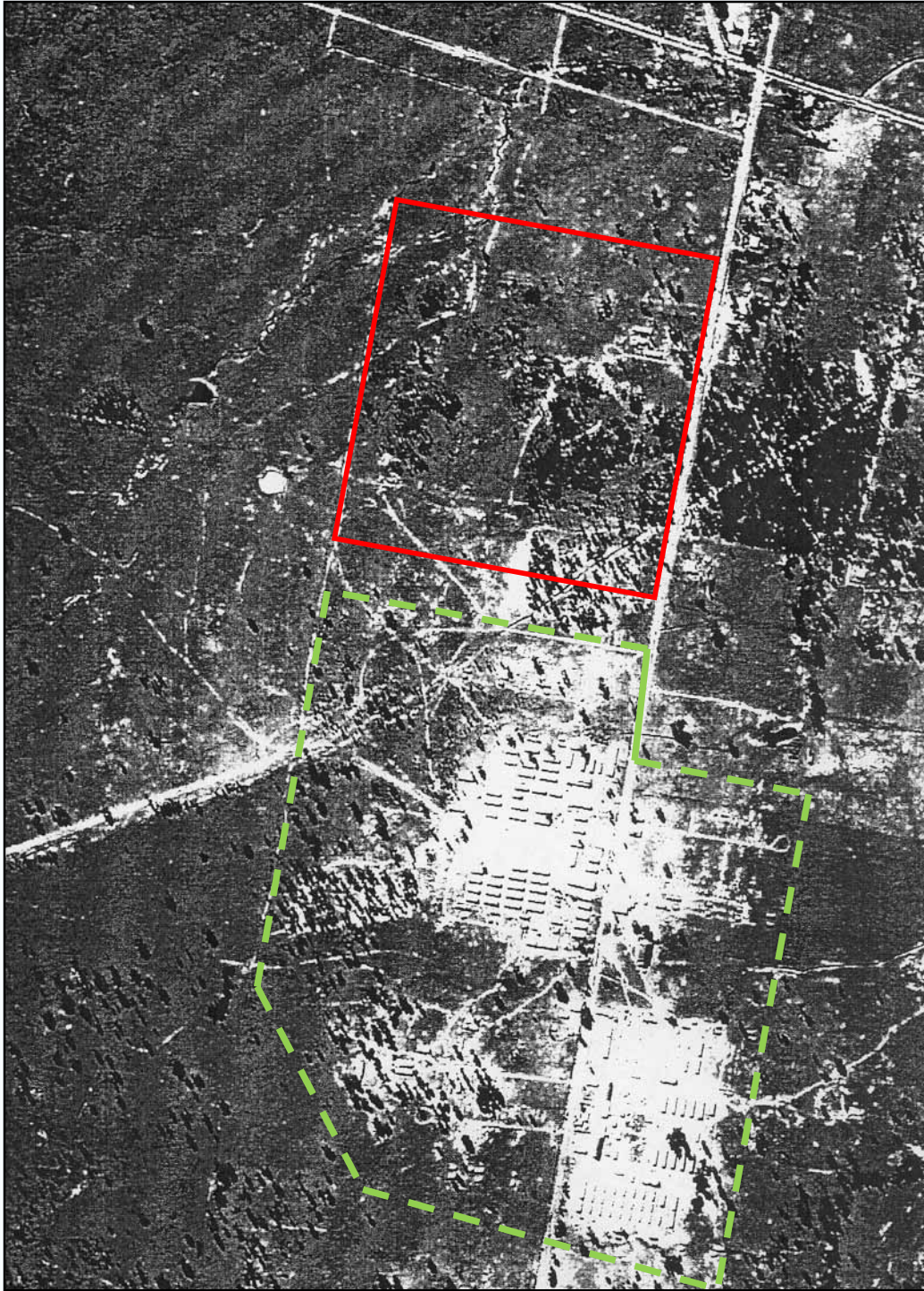


Figure 35: Photocopy of the NSW Lands Dept Aerial photograph, Run No.9, May 1951 with the approximate area of subject site indicated in red.

Note the extent of the Wallgrove Army Camp, which included the red and green areas outlined here.

The green section indicates the 1950s phase of part of the overall site as the Wallgrove Migrant Hostel, see also Figure x in this report. Source: 1951 Aerial was reproduced in Aboriginal & European Heritage Survey: Surplus Land adjoining Australia's Wonderland, Archaeological Management & Consulting Group Pty Ltd, 1997, 24

The photographs on the following pages, from the 1940s Wallgrove Army Camp, show the presence of rows of tents adjacent to areas of flat, open ground, with some vegetation in the distance. There are also rows of prefabricated huts shown in the photographs which are also apparent in the 1943 and 1951 aerial photographs above. It is unclear what section of Wallgrove Army Camp is shown in the photographs, as a parade ground is not nominated on the Army Camp plan at Figure 32.

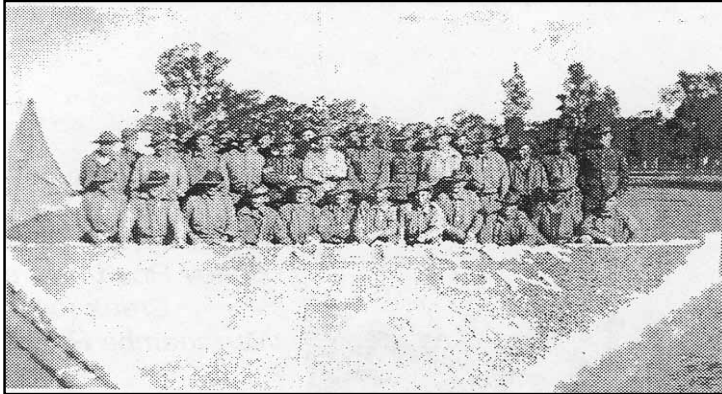


Figure 36: The Wallgrove Army Camp Transport Section, 1942. Note the open ground with rows of tents and vegetation in the background.

Source: Mt Druitt Historical Society, C.K. Haworth, reproduced in George Nicolaidis, *Eastern Creek and land settlers*, Blacktown City Council, 2000, 116.



Figure 37: Wallgrove, 1940. Members of 21st Light Horse Regiment preparing for kit inspection at the Camp.

Source: Australian War Memorial online, ID P 01022.006



Figure 38: 10 April 1944 Wallgrove Camp the 2/25th Infantry battalion on a march through the camp area. Note the buildings, possibly barracks in the background.

Source: Australian War Memorial, online catalogue, ID 065599

The Australian army units based at the Wallgrove Army Base during the course of World War II and the years afterwards have been recorded in the Military histories as being the following:

- 21st Light Horse Regiment – 1940
- 2/19th Battalion – July 1940
- 3rd Infantry Battalion – December 1940
- 9th Australian Division – February 1943
- 53rd Anti-Aircraft (Composite) Regiment – August 1943
- 2/25th Australian Infantry Battalion – April 1944
- 2/31st Australian Infantry Battalion – April 1944
- 6 Machine Gun Battalion
- Post-war, the 176 Air Dispatch Company was based there.

The camp continued to be used as a Commonwealth Military Force exercise area during the years of the Vietnam War and up to the early 1970s, Figure X below.



Figure 39: Photographs taken in January 1965 of University of NSW Regiment on exercises at the Wallgrove Army Camp. Source: State Library of NSW, Taken by Australian Photographic Agency for account: News 650047, Original item no. ON 173

There was some discussion in the documents reviewed for this Assessment of the use of the subject site during the WWII years as a grenade range apparently because the main camp was located to the south of the grenade range.¹⁴ The February 2001 *Environmental Due Diligence Program Report* and the G-Tek *Review* carried out in October 2003 (see Bibliography) both reviewed the possibility of the temporary grenade range being situated on the land that became the Eastern Creek Quarantine Station. The 2003 G-Tek report included with it a copy of an original 1942 Army report which described the Live Grenade Range details and layout. Handwritten notes on the cover of that report from 1942 state that:

*"Range outside Camp area. Fence considered unnecessary. Cattle graze the area when Range is not in use." A Sheppards, Major 20/3/42.*¹⁵

The G-Tek report concluded that the more probable site of the temporary grenade range given the information contained in the 1942 Army report combined with their review of four 1942 aerial photographs was some 300 yards west of the Eastern Creek Quarantine Station site boundary, most likely within the boundaries of the former Australia's Wonderland site.¹⁶ The copies of the 1942 aerial photographs provided with the report were not of good quality and therefore were not reproduced in this report. However, they showed minimal vegetation across the whole extent of the Army Camp and also minimal structures visible at the time. The most useful historical aerial photographs sourced to date – 1943 and 1951 – are reproduced in this report at Figures 33 to 35, and show the area of the subject site consisting of cleared land with what could well be rows of tents in the western section. There is also a small cluster of rectangular shaped structures in the north eastern section of the subject site towards Wallgrove Road that clearly appear in the 1943 aerial but are not as visible in the 1951 aerial. They would appear to have been situated in the location of the 1970s constructed residences for Eastern Creek Quarantine Station personnel, and may well have been removed or relocated elsewhere (outside of the subject site) as Army property.

The 1965 photos (Figure 39 above) of the Army Camp show the type of camouflaged trenches and the rocket exercises carried out during those years at the Wallgrove Army Camp, although the precise location within the large Camp is uncertain. It is possible that they were carried out in the area of the subject site as it appears from the aerials to be clear ground used for army exercises and prior to that for the location of rows of army tents with associated pathways and flagpoles. Given the large scale of the overall Camp, 483 acres (195.463 hectares), and the information obtained to date in the historical plans and photographs the location of prefabricated huts visible in the background were located on further to the south and east.

¹⁴ Phase 2 Environmental Due Diligence, 2001, 3.2

¹⁵ Army Appendix A, 7 March 1942

¹⁶ G-Tek Australia Pty Ltd correspondence 1 October 2003, page 1

Heritage Surveys were undertaken in the area south of the subject site during the late 1990s and early 2000s within the site of Australia's Wonderland and in conjunction with the construction of the Westlink M7 Motorway. The closest items to the subject site, recorded in 1998 were three substantial constructions aligned in a row at a 90° angle to Wallgrove Road directly south of the subject site. They appear consistent with the structures marked "married quarters" on the 1941 plan and were noted in the 1998 report as being the remains of either army huts or enclosures associated with Army use. They are described as follows:

*"Each measured approximately 24 x 6 metres and was formed by a series of posts spaced at 1.7 m intervals. Each post was set in concrete made with an aggregate including anything lying around, such as bricks and river stones. Such construction for huts would be usual, as military huts are usually built on brick piers topped by ant caps. The remains may also however represent some form of enclosure."*¹⁷

The items that were observed during the Heritage Survey by City Plan Heritage which have survived on the subject site and possibly relate to the Wallgrove Army use of the subject site are noted in Section 3.6 of this Report.

As discussed above, the former Wallgrove Army Depot was located on land which is now adjacent to the intersection of the M4 and M7 motorways out of Sydney. The former use of the land as the Wallgrove Army Depot and then the Wallgrove Migrant Hostel is no longer apparent. Army buildings were dismantled and disposed of, removed or reused during the Hostel phase, as is common practice with army structures. The Commonwealth used the land for other purposes in the 1970s and sold off parts of the land from the 1980s to 200s. The former Wallgrove Army Depot became subsumed into a variety of uses, such as the Australia's Wonderland amusement park, the Motorway road systems and the Eastern Creek Quarantine Station. Therefore, the only reminders of the history of the area are heritage interpretation in a physical form and documents in various archives.

The former use of the site by the Australian Light Horse Regiment is commemorated by the heritage interpretation sculpture parade, described below on the Westlink M7 website:

The Australian Light Horse Sculpture Parade is dedicated to the heroic troops who served in the Australian Light Horse and their horses that could never return.

The sculpture has a central mast and four sets of radiating markers representing the Australian Light Horse on parade. The soaring 55m high mast with its reflective crown, located at the centre of the Light Horse Interchange, provides a focus to the sculpture. The lit mast and crown symbolise a torch in the dark. Red, the colour of the Flanders poppy and poppies that bloomed throughout Palestine, is symbolic of the blood of supreme sacrifice and is the colour chosen for the sculptural group. The

¹⁷ AMAC, 1998, 3.5

*abstract plumage attached to each marker represents the emu plumes attached to the Light Horsemen's slouch hats. The white band is a reference to the departing soldiers' innocence of war. Australian quarantine regulations prevented the return of any horse that had survived the battles. The old and sick horses were shot, while the remainder was handed over to British units. As a reminder of every Light Horseman's loss in leaving his horse behind, there is no physical representation of the horse in the sculpture.*¹⁸



Figure 40: The Light Horse Regiment has been honoured in the adjacent Westlink M7 Motorway sculptural landscape display. Source: <http://www.westlinkm7.com>.

3.4 WALLGROVE MIGRANT HOSTEL

The Wallgrove Army Depot was amended for use as the Wallgrove Migrant Hostel at the end of WWII and into the 1950s. It was one of a series of camps, 36 in total, which operated within New South Wales during this period. Another camp, Schofields, was situated northwest of Wallgrove, approximately 20 kilometres distance from it.

The text accompanying the plan in the Blacktown Historical Journal at Figure 35 in Section 3.3 above, states that the post-war influx of migrants to Sydney saw the Wallgrove Camp reused, in order to accommodate “uncomfortable numbers of people in cheerless conditions”.¹⁹ The ‘uncomfortable’ conditions of the Wallgrove Hostel for providing accommodation for months at a time were reiterated in correspondence now stored at the National Archives of Australia:

Eight months ago when I arrived in Australia, I expected to start a new life. Quiet, peaceful and better life than the life after the war as a refugee in German Camps. I well realised the accommodation difficulties, which may exist in such an enormous immigration scheme; I was prepared for discomfort and difficult days in the beginning, but I never thought of such conditions in which I am compelled to live in Wallgrove

¹⁸ <http://www.westlinkm7.com.au/about.php?Light-Horse-Sculpture-Parade-5>

¹⁹ *Quarterly Journal Blacktown & District Historical Society Vol 15, No 3, Winter 1995, The end of World War II, 1945: a time to remember, 60*

*Hostel. I will say openly: Had I known that I will have to live in such conditions, I would never have come to Australia and would advise others against emigrating there.*²⁰

Migrants and their dependants were permitted to remain in the hostels from 3 to 12 months, and were given training to assist with resettlement. The conditions would have been cramped and uncomfortable as much of the early accommodation throughout Australia consisted of disused army huts, such as at Wallgrove, and other converted buildings. This accommodation across the Hostels was gradually replaced with purpose-built structures with improved facilities.

Comparative information for the Migrant Hostel use of the site was sourced from Bonegilla (Migrant Centre) Camp in Victoria, which has been conserved and restored as an existing heritage site. It is similar to Wallgrove, being a former army camp. Information relating specifically to Wallgrove Hostel was difficult to access. At Bonegilla, the 23 former army buildings and the open setting reflect the basic conditions of the former war-time army camps. The symmetrical grids of the timber framed, corrugated iron huts provided everything - staff and migrant housing, offices, recreation and dining halls, kitchens and toilet blocks. The style of accommodation offered was therefore very basic. There were communal dining and washing facilities and purpose-built recreation halls.²¹



**Figure 41: 1958
Christmas party at the
Wallgrove Hostel.
“Hostels were used to
accommodate new
Australians in the
1950's-1970's”**

Source: Migrant Hostels
online forum
migrantweb.com

The Department of Labour and National Service administered the migrant hostels until 1948 when the Migrant Workers' Accommodation Division was established within the Department. The Division was organised into three regional offices, located in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, from which hostels throughout Australia were run. From January 1952, the administration of hostels was handed over to Commonwealth Hostels Limited, a Commonwealth owned company registered in Victoria; the company operated until 1978.²²

²⁰ Un-named Wallgrove Migrant camp resident, requesting transfer to another camp or return transport to Europe Archives of Australia, online Fact Sheet 170, Migrant Hostels in NSW

²¹ Ibid

²² National Archives of Australia, online Fact Sheet 170, Migrant Hostels in NSW

Study of the 1952 layout of the Wallgrove Migrant Hostel (Figure 43) indicates that part of the army camp grounds that are now occupied by the Eastern Creek Quarantine Station was not used for the accommodation of the migrants. The site was on the north of the Migrant Hostel site.



Figure 42: The type of ex-army huts used at the Bonegilla Migrant Centre in Victoria and at Wallgrove

Source: Australian National Heritage online, <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/national/bonegilla/>

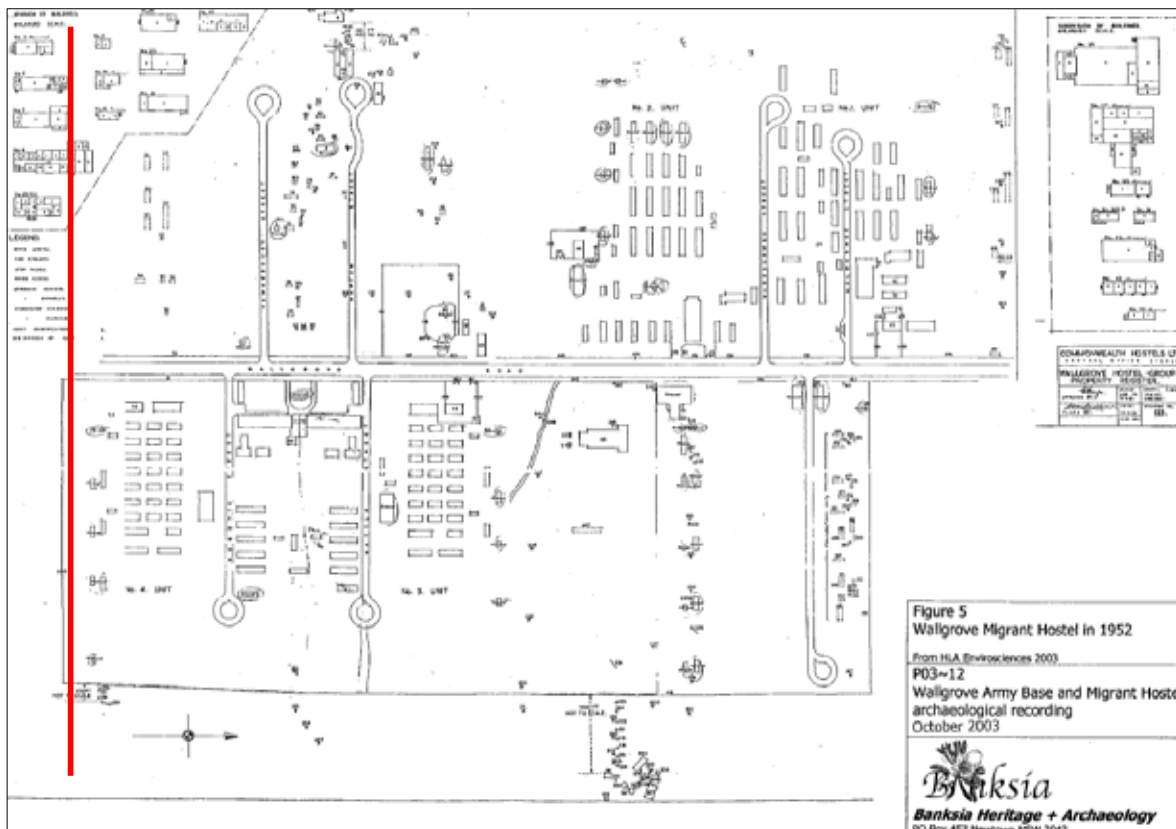


Figure 43: Wallgrove Migrant Hostel layout in 1952. The Eastern Creek Quarantine Station site is apparently outside of the section of the former army camp grounds that were used for the Hostel. The Quarantine Station site is located to the left of the red line indicating approximate location of M4 Motorway. Wallgrove Road is the major horizontal road in the centre of the Hostel plan

Source: Banksia Heritage + Archaeology, Wallgrove Army base and Migrant Hostel archaeological recording, October 2003

3.5 THE EASTERN CREEK QUARANTINE STATION DEVELOPMENT

In the late 1970s the Commonwealth Department of Health, which was then responsible for all forms of quarantine in Australia, established a program of animal quarantine development nationally. As part of this program a quarantine station was constructed on part of the Commonwealth owned land at Wallgrove, now Eastern Creek, in 1978 at a cost of \$4.6 million of Budget funding. The station was to provide *“facilities for 597 dogs, 144 cats, 90 horses and emergency accommodation for other species as required.”* Eastern Creek was to replace the Abbotsford Point facility, which had been constructed there in 1917. Abbotsford Point lacked available room for expansion as it was increasingly surrounded by residential development. It was closed by the Department once Eastern Creek opened in 1980.

There was no mention of demolition of any buildings present at the site or the reuse of any buildings as part of the Quarantine Station. In 1980 the Eastern Creek Quarantine Station opened with 591 rabies proof dog kennels in twenty individual blocks, 144 cat cages in two blocks and 90 prefabricated stables in six separate rows – with associated exercise yards and covered round-yards. Other facilities of the animal quarantine station included three larger open yards with an associated crush for emergency group quarantine accommodation. Special features include an air-conditioned surgery within the animal compound, a block of six temperature controlled horse stables and a special horse crush. The prefabricated stable walls were constructed of laminated wood covered with metal. The Station included an administrative building, services buildings, an amenities block and horse grooms accommodation as well as three houses for senior staff.²³

In 1981, a queen bee quarantine facility was opened at the site, and consisted of two parts – twelve individual flight cages and a main building containing storeroom kitchen, workshop office, grafting and receival rooms. In 1997/98 the Post Entry Plant Quarantine facility was constructed at the site at a cost of \$1.5 million. In addition to the diagnostic laboratory, the Eastern Creek facility comprises 274 metres² of glasshouse space and 542 metres² of screen house space. In 1998/99 the quarantine detector dog kennels were relocated from the Customs kennelling facility to the Eastern Creek station.²⁴ These buildings are all currently present at the site and most of them are noted on the site plan at Figure 2 in this report.

3.6 CURRENT OWNERSHIP

During the late 1990s the Commonwealth Government pursued a program of privatisation of Commonwealth owned properties. As part of the process in 2001 the Department of Finance and Administration undertook the sale of the Commonwealth land occupied by Eastern Creek Quarantine Station. The land was sold to Lisand Pty Ltd and AQIS signed a lease for the facility in June 2001 until 2010, with an option for AQIS to extend its tenancy until 2015. In

²³ Overview of Current Operations at Eastern Creek Quarantine Station, CORR.0006.002.0011

²⁴ Op cit

2002 Lisand sold the land to Afteron Pty Ltd. Afteron agreed to meet Lisand's obligations under the terms of the Eastern Creek lease with AQIS.²⁵

3.7 SUMMARY OF SITE SURVEY

The site survey conducted by City Plan Heritage in February 2009 comprised the 22 hectares operated by Eastern Creek Quarantine Station including the open areas of the back paddocks bordered to the south by the M4 motorway. This part of the Quarantine Station site consists of mainly flat paddocks with knee length grass and occasional stands of eucalypts and other small native trees. There was also a small dam and two large raised sections observed in the back paddock. One raised section was a rounded hillock and was associated with animal burials, and the other was a regular rectangular shape covered with sand and bordered by flat palings level with the ground. This is indicated on Sheet 20 of the Survey plans as 'disused sand dressage area' and therefore both areas are associated with former or current Eastern Creek Quarantine Station use.

The conclusions of the site survey were that the establishment of the Eastern Creek Quarantine Station and its use of the 22 hectares of part of the Wallgrove Army Depot have resulted in most of the relics or remains connected with the former use being destroyed or removed. The only exception to this is the existence of some relics confined to two areas of the Back Paddock that would require more detailed archaeological assessment or recording should any impact be planned for that part of the site. It is recommended that impact to these areas of the site be avoided until the items noted here have been studied and recorded.

The items observed (see Figures 44 to 48) were in two areas of the back paddock, designated as Areas A and B. In Area A, pieces of fencing wire were photographed, set into trees at a consistent height of approximately one metre. In Area B the presence of some broken asphalt slabs and a pole set into cement along with the remains of cement posts containing large pieces of blue metal aggregate were lying in a bushy patch of uneven ground in the southwest boundary area of the site. The presence of a boundary fence line of concrete posts and barbed wire, at approximately one metre height along the M4 section of the site was also observed and may remain from the Army Camp use of the area. However, as this is outside the present boundary fence line it was noted and photographed for this report but nothing further is required.

The concrete post and bits of concrete slab observed in Area B sound similar in description of aggregate to that provided in the archaeological recording undertaken by Banksia Heritage + Archaeology in 2003 in the area south of the subject site. However, the aggregate does not sound similar to the description noted in the 1998 recording, copied in this report at page 36.

²⁵ Op cit

This could be due to the fact that the portions visible in Area B were of a later date or of paths rather than structures, or that the 1998 recording was of huts of a later period.

It must be stated it is uncertain at this stage whether these remains are associated with the Wallgrove Army Depot use of the site. However, comparison with the written reports of other areas of the Wallgrove Army Camp (see Bibliography) suggests that it is the case. City Plan Heritage recommends that - should any impact be planned for these areas of the Eastern Creek Quarantine Station a more detailed Archaeological Recording be carried out prior to impact in order to ascertain how they fit into the larger Wallgrove Army Depot layout and use of the area. If they are part of the period of the site's army use they should be recorded and the Wallgrove Army Camp records should be consulted for details on specific layouts of the larger Camp layout. The nominated Areas, A and B, (see figure below) would need to be inspected and Area B should be investigated once the ground has been cleared.



Figure 44: Aerial photograph of the Eastern Creek Quarantine Station with Areas A and B marked for further assessment prior to any impact.



Figure 45: Area A – general photograph looking west across the Back paddock area adjacent to the boundary with M4 Motorway.



Figure 46: Area A - The two trees with pieces of rusted fencing wire embedded in their trunks.



Figure 47: Area B – general view looking north along Back Paddock (M4 border fence at left) towards the corner boundary of Pinegrove Cemetery.



**Figure 48: Area B – Top left - post or 'street sign pole'.
Top right - round cement post or footing
Bottom left - asphalt 'road' slabs, bottom right - cement patches or tent bases?**



The Archaeological Recording on the area of the Wallgrove Army Camp impacted by the construction of the Westlink M7 (to the southeast of the subject site) contains the following explanation of the cement slabs and posts observed in that area:

One issue relates to the seriation [ordering in time] of concrete structures such as slabs based on the type of aggregate that is used. Work by this author [Denis Gojak] elsewhere on mid-20th century defence structures in Sydney appears to show an ordering in time of aggregate types – from rolled river gravels to angular red-orange-yellow siliceous and quartz fractured pebbles and then through a gradation of blue metal aggregates. This pattern was developed through observation at Middle Head and other sites in central Sydney. While there appeared to be some patterning of a similar nature at Wallgrove the data is not entirely adequate to independently test this proposition as a relative dating tool for concrete structures.²⁶

However, as the presence of concrete remains with blue metal aggregate have been noted at different parts of the site – including in the subject site of Eastern Creek Quarantine Station - comparison of all the concrete slabs and posts with aggregate observed and noted throughout the extent of the former Wallgrove Army Depot area could provide a better idea of whether these remains do date to the Army Camp use or later.

4.0 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

4.1 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The following assessment of significance has been conducted in accordance with the NSW Heritage Assessment criteria endorsed by the NSW Heritage Council ('Assessing Heritage Significance', *NSW Heritage Manual*).

a) an item is important in the course, or pattern, of the local area's cultural or natural history

- The Eastern Creek Quarantine Station for plants and animals was established on 22 hectares of land in 1979 and opened in 1980. Prior to the establishment of the Quarantine Station on the subject site its former use as part of the Wallgrove Army Depot is important in the pattern of the local area's cultural history and to the wider history of Army Camps in Sydney. This phase of the history of the subject site covered the significant WW2 and post WW2 years. The earlier history of the site is associated with land cultivation and the Minchinbury Estate winery. While the Minchinbury Estate is significant locally, the subject site itself does not appear from the current historical research to be associated with habitation by the landowners or the actual growing of vines. Therefore, the significance of

²⁶ Banksia Heritage + Archaeology, 2003, Item 5.2.7, 28

the site is associated with its c.1940s-1960s history of the Wallgrove Army Depot. This use is important in the course of the local area's cultural history.

GUIDELINES FOR INCLUSION	✓/✗	GUIDELINES FOR EXCLUSION	✓/✗
Shows evidence of a significant human activity	✓	Has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important activities or processes.	✗
Is associated with a significant activity or historical phase	✓	Provides evidence of activities of processes that are of dubious historical importance	✗
Maintains or shows the continuity of a historical process or activity	✗	Has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association	✓

b) an item has strong or special associations with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the local area's cultural or natural history

- The former use of the subject site as part of the Wallgrove Army Depot is important in the pattern of the local area's cultural history and to the wider history of Army Camps in Sydney. The historical research carried out to date has not resulted in a specific person or group of persons of importance being associated with the subject site.

GUIDELINES FOR INCLUSION	✓/✗	GUIDELINES FOR EXCLUSION	✓/✗
Shows evidence of a significant human occupation	✗	Has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important people or events	✗
Is associated with a significant event, person, or group of persons	✓	Provides evidence of people or events that are of dubious historical importance	✗
		Has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of particular association	✓

c) an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in the local area

- The former use of the subject site as the Wallgrove Army Depot does not fit this criteria. However, the current use of the site as the Eastern Creek Quarantine Station for animals and plants could be associated with technical innovation in the Quarantine field. The buildings and structures within the site date from the 1980s and later and are typical of their type associated with relevant function and do not present any architectural value.

GUIDELINES FOR INCLUSION	✓/✗	GUIDELINES FOR EXCLUSION	✓/✗
Shows or is associated with, creative or	✗	Is not a major work by an	✓

technical innovation or achievement		important designer or artist	
Is the inspiration for a creative or technical innovation or achievement	✗	Has lost its design or technical integrity	✗
Is aesthetically distinctive	✗	Its positive visual or sensory appeal or landmark and scenic qualities have been more than temporarily degraded	✗
Has landmark qualities	✗	Has only a loose association with a creative or technical achievement	✓
Exemplifies a particular taste, style or technology	✓		

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

- The former use of the subject site as part of the Wallgrove Army Camp has special associations with the WW2 and Vietnam War Veterans and their families and with the Returned Soldiers Leagues of Australia. With the exception of the remnants observed during the site inspection, these associations are no longer visible on the site due to its consistent use since 1980 as the Eastern Creek Quarantine Station.

GUIDELINES FOR INCLUSION	✓/✗	GUIDELINES FOR EXCLUSION	✓/✗
Is important for its associations with an identifiable group	✓	Is only important to the community for amenity reasons	✗
Is important to a community's sense of place	✗	Is retained only in preference to a proposed alternative	✗

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

- The former use of the site as part of the Wallgrove Army Depot since 1941 has the potential to yield information that contributes to an understanding of this phase of the site's history. As mentioned previously, there are no surviving buildings related to the Wallgrove Army Depot former use at the subject site. The research undertaken suggests that the subject site is located on the area that was nominated as the 'space for up to 5,000 men accommodated in tents'. However, the aerials taken in 1943 and 1951 indicate that the land appears to have remained largely cleared with some patches of vegetation. The 2001 and 2003 reports dismissed the subject site as the location of an Army grenade range during the 1940s, however remnant fencing observed in Area A of the subject site may indicate some form of fenced-off training area. The City Plan Heritage survey of the open Back Paddocks area of the subject site does suggest a few items have survived in places marked as Area A and B and would require further recording prior to any impact on the site. The archaeological potential on most of the Eastern Creek Quarantine Station is

assessed as **low**, due to the combination of the ephemeral nature of the Army Depot use of this part of the Camp and the impact of services associated with the establishment of the Quarantine Station.

- The adjacent interpretation via landscaping and sculpture on the M4 Motorway of the Light Horse Brigade is an attempt at highlighting the former historical significance of the area.

GUIDELINES FOR INCLUSION	✓/x	GUIDELINES FOR EXCLUSION	✓/x
Has the potential to yield new or further substantial scientific and/or archaeological information	x	Has little archaeological or research potential	x
Is an important benchmark or reference site or type	x	Only contains information that is readily available from other resources or archaeological sites	✓
Provides evidence of past human cultures that is unavailable elsewhere	x	The knowledge gained would be irrelevant to research on science, human history or culture	x

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

The present and former use of the subject site does not fit with this criteria.

GUIDELINES FOR INCLUSION	✓/x	GUIDELINES FOR EXCLUSION	✓/x
Provides evidence of a defunct custom, way of life or process	x	Is not rare	✓
Demonstrates a process, custom or other human activity that is in danger of being lost	x	Is numerous but under threat	x
Shows unusually accurate evidence of a significant human activity	x		
Is the only example of its type	x		
Demonstrates designs or techniques of exceptional interest	x		
Shows rare evidence of a significant human activity important to a community	x		

g) an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of the local area's

- ***cultural or natural places; or***
- ***cultural or natural environments***

The existing structures associated with the animal quarantine and plant quarantine activities are of typical of their types representing the 1980s and later prefabricated or in-situ brick construction techniques, architectural styles and fabric. Therefore they are not

considered as being of important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of the local area's cultural environments.

GUIDELINES FOR INCLUSION	✓/x	GUIDELINES FOR EXCLUSION	✓/x
Is a fine example of its type	x	Is a poor example of its type	✓
Has the principal characteristics of an important class or group of items	x	Does not include or has lost the range of characteristics of a type	✓
Has attributes typical of a particular way of life, philosophy, custom, significant process, design, technique or activity	✓	Does not represent well the characteristics that make up a significant variation of a type	✓
Is a significant variation to a class of items	x		
Is part of a group which collectively illustrates a representative type	x		
Is outstanding because of its setting, condition or size	x		
Is outstanding because of its integrity or the esteem in which it is held	x		

4.2 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The subject site of the Eastern Creek Quarantine Station is of some Local heritage significance due to its former use from 1941 as part of the Wallgrove Army Camp. The Army Camp was Commonwealth Government facility that operated around Australia. As such, the history of the site is similar to many other sites in Australia. The people who passed through the Army Camp will have memories and associations with the place, which does give a level of social significance. However, this is representative of other Australian army camp experiences of World War II and post-war periods, and absence of surviving structures or facilities of that period compromised its cultural significance.

Although the archaeological potential of the overall site used by the Quarantine Station assessed as being low, the archaeological remains observed at the unused Back Paddock area of the site are seen to be of local historical significance connected with the Wallgrove Army Camp use of the site, and have some potential to yield information. The site does not exhibit landmark qualities, creative or technical achievement of its type.

5.0 ISSUES, CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The following section briefly outlines the issues, constraints and opportunities for the site based on the significance and condition of the place, good practice guidelines for heritage conservation, statutory constraints and the stakeholder issues. The following has been prepared in regard to the proposed rezoning of the Eastern Creek Quarantine Station site as a General Industrial (IN1) zoning.

5.1 ISSUES

- The areas of the subject site where the Quarantine Station structures are situated have been largely disturbed and therefore have no potential to yield information on the former army use of the site. Although these are sound structures they do not possess heritage value to warrant their conservation.
- Potential value of the archaeological relics within the Back Paddock area. There has not been any archaeological work carried out on the Eastern Creek Quarantine Station to date. Reports reviewed for this Assessment were for work carried out to the south of the subject site, mainly in conjunction with the Motorways and the Australia's Wonderland Theme Park.
- Given consideration to the site's close proximity to an 'Area of Archaeological Significance' as defined in Figure 3.2 of the Blacktown DCP 2006, an Aboriginal archaeological assessment of the site, undertaken separately, is warranted for the identification of any area of significance.
- Planting of exotic and native tree species were reported for the 1941 Army Camp establishment and again as 'camp beautification' in 1946. Therefore, there is potential heritage value for the flora and fauna within the site boundaries, which is subject to the findings of a separate current study.

5.2 CONSTRAINTS FOR THE SITE

- The southern portion area of the Back Paddock area along M4 motorway warrants further investigation due to the potential value of the identified relics in this report designated as Area A and B before any redevelopment takes place. Should their association with the army use of the site be clearly identified then mitigative measures will be required to ensure appropriate treatment such as an archaeological archival recording before the items are removed.
- Objectives and controls of the current statutory controls pertinent to the site. At the time of the preparation of this report Blacktown Council was undertaking the review and update of their 1988 LEP, therefore, any future/draft statutory controls and objectives in relation to heritage matters will be required to be revisited.
- It is understood that this report has been undertaken for the purposes of rezoning of the subject site. The proposal under Part 3A of the of the EP&A Act 1979, is change its current

Special Uses zone to a zone for General Industrial and Commercial Use. In general terms therefore, there are minimal constraints for the site as assessed in this Heritage and European Archaeological Assessment. The areas of heritage significance have been highlighted and once they have been further studied and recorded fully this report has not identified any further limitations.

5.3 OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SITE

- Relatively low significance and architectural value of the existing structures within the Quarantine Station site provide opportunity for further development of the site for activities that would be suitable to the site's former use history under Commonwealth ownership. The current private ownership has potential for more publicly accessible uses that will not compromise the historical associations of the site.
- The site is not within the vicinity of any heritage items listed on the Blacktown LEP 1988, and is not within a known conservation area or special character area. This provides further opportunity for the design and placement of future structures on the site, under the rezoning.

6.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is concluded that the Eastern Creek Quarantine Station site does not meet the threshold for heritage listing under the NSW Heritage Significance Assessment Criteria. It does; however, contain social heritage values relating to its former use as the Wallgrove Army Camp and contributes to the cultural values and historical development within the local context.

The conservation of the Quarantine Station buildings is not warranted due to their low heritage value, and due to their construction in 1979-80 and onwards. It is City Plan Heritage's opinion that the adaptation of the existing buildings that are not affected by contamination should be considered in future development of the site, which may result from its proposed rezoning for Industrial uses. Opportunities exist for the economically viable reuse of the site as described in section 5.3 above.

Two areas of heritage interest have been identified largely in relation to the site's association with the former army camp use and the relics observed during the site inspection. These matters, as identified in sections 5.1 and 5.2 above, should be taken into consideration prior to any disturbance on the site's unused Back Paddock area.

Recommendations:

The following studies are recommended should the redevelopment under rezoning of the site occur in the future:

- A photographic archival recording of the Eastern Creek Quarantine Station as a whole, prior to commencement of demolition works and removal of any fabric from the site. An archival recording of the buildings, structures and associated landscape elements will ensure recording of this phase of the site's use as a Commonwealth facility for animal and plant Quarantine since 1980. The site's development history has taken place under Commonwealth ownership since the 1940s.
- If redevelopment takes place on the site; a form of Heritage Interpretation will be necessary to ensure the overall history of the site as part of the former Army Depot is appreciated and incorporated into the new development. This can be addressed at the design stage to allow for a suitable interpretive material is proposed such as a simple sign or associated alternative media (possibly part of a website for the new development). It is acknowledged that visibility of interpretive signage within the scale and operational activities of the potential industrial uses may not be practical for an on-site interpretive element(s) where the interpretive information cannot be seen and appreciated. Form of the interpretive media either being
 - on-site element, or
 - part of a future website for the site, or
 - provision of all associated studies including this Heritage Assessment, archival recording of the whole site, and results of the recommended archaeological study to the Blacktown Local History Library,should be clarified when the layout, design and activities of the new development is known.
- An Archaeological Recording, which would include study and recording of the items identified in the site survey combined with review of the following documents to assist in establishing the significance of the items observed during the site survey:
 - Environmental Records currently being compiled by the client,
 - The Army Records for the site held at the National War Memorial in Canberra and the National Archives of Australia. A number of boxes of items have been identified during this Heritage & European Archaeological Assessment.
 - Any recommendations made by the Environmental and Aboriginal Consultants should be taken into consideration.

CITY PLAN HERITAGE

MARCH 2009

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