

Graythwaite Site Aboriginal Heritage Assessment

Prepared by Australian Museum Business Services
for Tanner Architects Pty Ltd

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Executive Summary

Australian Museum Business Services (AMBS) has been commissioned by Tanner Architects Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal heritage assessment for the Graythwaite site. The findings are to be incorporated into a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the site, currently being prepared by Tanner Architects.

The majority of registered AHIMS sites in the region of the study area are middens and Hawkesbury Sandstone shelters, which occur along Sydney Harbour. However, there are no registered AHIMS sites in the study area or in its vicinity, and no new Aboriginal sites or areas of Aboriginal heritage sensitivity were identified during the survey. This confirms the predictive model, and was expected given the early development of the area of North Sydney.

Given the extent of disturbance to the original land surface at Graythwaite and the steep topography, it is not considered that there is any archaeological potential for intact or substantial Aboriginal heritage deposits on the site. Further, no Aboriginal cultural issues or sensitivities were identified for the site by Mr Allen Madden of MLALC. The study area is not considered to have any scientific or cultural significance for Aboriginal heritage. As such, there are no Aboriginal heritage constraints for the property.

This conclusion is consistent with the advice provided by Mr Allen Madden of the MLALC, who also stated that there were no Aboriginal heritage constraints for the Graythwaite site. Nevertheless, Mr Madden requested that a representative of the MLALC be present should there be any ground disturbance or excavation, or any vegetation clearance, to the south and west of the main residence.

Should any Aboriginal objects be discovered during any future works on the site, excavation or disturbance of the area should stop immediately and the Cultural Heritage Division of DECCW should be informed in accordance with Section 91 of the NPW Act. MLALC should also be contacted by the Shore School in such an event. Works should not continue without the written consent of DECCW.

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1 Introduction

Australian Museum Business Services (AMBS) has been commissioned by Tanner Architects Pty Ltd to prepare an Aboriginal heritage assessment for the Graythwaite site. The findings are to be incorporated into a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the site, currently being prepared by Tanner Architects.

The existing CMP for the Graythwaite site was originally prepared in 1993 by Graham Edds & Associates for the NSW Department of Health, before being updated in 2000. The CMP was endorsed by the Heritage Council in 2000. The endorsed CMP expired on 15 August 2005.

Following the recent purchase of the Graythwaite site by the Sydney Church of England Grammar School (Shore), the existing CMP needs to be revised and updated to provide a sound basis for appropriate consideration of future use options for the site. It will also be submitted to the Heritage Council of NSW for endorsement.

1.1 Study Area

The Graythwaite site is located at 20 Edward Street in North Sydney, to the west of the main Shore School site (Figure 1.1). It stands within an urban area.

1.2 Methodology

This Aboriginal heritage assessment is broadly consistent with the processes and principles set out in the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter (*The Australia ICOMOS charter for the conservation of places of cultural significance*). The assessment of Aboriginal scientific significance has been undertaken in accordance with Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW; formerly the National Parks and Wildlife Service [NPWS]) guidelines (NPWS 1997a, 1997b).

The key heritage requirements for this project are:

- identification of any Aboriginal heritage sites present within the study area or within the vicinity;
- assessment of the Aboriginal heritage values of the study area; and
- provision of recommendations for the management of Aboriginal heritage resources in the study area.

To fulfil the requirements of the project, the following tasks were undertaken:

- consultation with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC);
- search and review of the DECCW Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database, to determine the location and nature of any Aboriginal heritage sites recorded within, or in the vicinity of, the study area;
- review of relevant previous archaeological reports specific to the area, to determine the extent of past archaeological research in the region;
- review of relevant contextual environmental information and previous land use history;
- site survey, to allow identification and assessment of any Aboriginal heritage values present in the study area; and
- preparation of a report describing the results of the background research, the extent and significance of heritage items recorded in the study area, and outlining management recommendations and mitigation measures for Aboriginal heritage resources, including constraints and opportunities.

1.2.1 Aboriginal Consultation

The Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC) was contacted and a representative was invited to attend the preliminary site visit. The MLALC representative nominated to attend was Allen Madden. Conversation with Mr Madden, indicated that the MLALC did not consider the study area to have any issues of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance or sensitivity, and therefore that there were no Aboriginal heritage constraints for future development of the site. Nevertheless, Mr Madden requested that a representative of the MLALC be present should there be any ground disturbance or excavation, or any vegetation clearance, to the south and west of the main residence, to allow an inspection for any Aboriginal heritage material (see also Section 7). A copy of this draft report was sent to MLALC for review and comment, and MLALC provided written feedback agreeing with the results and recommendations (Appendix A).

1.3 Authorship and Acknowledgements

This report has been prepared by AMBS Project Officer, Jenna Weston. Jennie Lindbergh, AMBS Senior Project Manager, provided technical advice and input, and reviewed the report for quality and consistency. AMBS Project Manager, Chris Langeluddecke reviewed the Aboriginal heritage sections.

The authors acknowledge the assistance of Sean Williams and George Phillips of Tanner Architects, and Paul Bermingham of the Shore School.



Figure 1.1 Location of study area.

2 Statutory Context

2.1 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) provides for the protection and management of nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places, which are defined by the Act as places of national environmental significance. It also aims to promote ecologically sustainable development. Places that have outstanding heritage value to the nation are included on the National Heritage List (NHL), while places that have significant heritage value and are owned or managed by Commonwealth agencies are included on the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL). Any action that is likely to have a significant impact on the values of items or places included on the NHL or CHL must be referred to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts (the Minister) for approval. Actions deemed to have a significant impact on matters of national environmental significance or on the environment of the Commonwealth are controlled actions.

The Graythwaite site is not included on the NHL or the CHL nor are there any Aboriginal heritage items in or within the vicinity of the study area which are listed on the NHL or the CHL.

2.1.1 Register of the National Estate

The Register of the National Estate (RNE) was originally established under Section 22 of the *Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975* (AHC Act). In 2004, a new national heritage system that includes the NHL and CHL was established under the EPBC Act. As a result, there is now a considerable level of overlap between the RNE and heritage lists at the national, State and Territory, and local government levels. To address this situation, the RNE has been frozen since February 2007, meaning that places cannot be added or removed. From February 2012 all references to the RNE will be removed from the EPBC Act and the AHC Act.

The RNE should be understood as an information resource only. Where an action has been referred to the Minister, in accordance with the EPBC Act, the RNE may be used for reference.

The Graythwaite site is included on the RNE (Place ID 2909). However, the site does not contain any Aboriginal heritage items, nor are there any Aboriginal heritage items in the vicinity of the study area which are listed on the RNE.

2.2 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

Under the provisions of the *National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act), the Director-General of the NPWS (now DECCW) is responsible for the care, control and management of all national parks, historic sites within national parks, nature reserves, state conservation areas, karst conservation reserves and regional parks. The Director-General is also responsible, under this legislation, for the protection and care of native fauna and flora, and Aboriginal places and objects throughout NSW.

All Aboriginal Objects are protected regardless of their significance or land tenure under the NPW Act. Aboriginal Objects can include pre-contact features such as scarred trees, middens and open campsites, as well as physical evidence of post-contact use of the area such as Aboriginal built fencing and fringe camps. The NPW Act also protects Aboriginal Places, which are defined as “*a place that is or was of special significance to Aboriginal culture. It may or may not contain Aboriginal objects*”. Aboriginal Places can only be declared by the Minister administering the NPW Act.

Under Section 90 of the Act, it is an offence for a person to destroy, deface, damage or desecrate an Aboriginal Object or Aboriginal Place without the prior issue of an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit

(AHIP). The Act requires a person to take reasonable precautions and due diligence to avoid impacts on Aboriginal Objects. AHIPs may only be obtained from the Environmental Protection and Regulation Division (EPRD) of DECCW. It is also an offence under Section 86 of the NPW Act to disturb or excavate land for the purpose of discovering an Aboriginal Object, or to disturb or move an Aboriginal Object on any land, without first obtaining a permit under Section 87 of the NPW Act.

2.2.1 *Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS)*

Part of the regulatory framework for the implementation of the NPW Act is the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS), maintained by DECCW. AHIMS includes a database of Aboriginal heritage sites, items, places and other objects that have been reported to the DECCW. Also available through AHIMS are site cards, which describe Aboriginal sites registered in the database, as well as Aboriginal heritage assessment reports, which contribute to assessments of scientific significance for Aboriginal sites. The AHIMS is not a comprehensive list of all Aboriginal heritage in NSW, rather it reflects information which has been reported to DECCW. As such, site co-ordinates in the database vary in accuracy depending on the method used to record their location. In particular, the translation of a site's geographic coordinates from imperial to AMG has often resulted in some inaccuracies in locating sites against new coordinates. Heritage consultants are obliged to report Aboriginal sites identified during field investigations to DECCW, regardless of land tenure, or whether such sites are likely to be impacted by a proposed development.

The results of a site search for the local area, for this Aboriginal heritage assessment, are presented in Section 4.3.

2.3 **Heritage Act 1977**

The *Heritage Act 1977* provides protection for heritage places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects or precincts that are important to the people of NSW. These include items of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage significance. Where these items or places have particular importance to the State of NSW, they are listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR).

The Graythwaite site is included on the SHR, however, the site does not contain any identified Aboriginal heritage items nor are there any SHR listed Aboriginal heritage items within the vicinity of the study area.

2.4 **Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979)**

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) is the main law regulating land use planning and development in NSW, and requires consideration to be given to the environment as part of the land use planning process. Any future development on the site will be assessed under Part 3A or Part 4 of the EP&A Act.

Part 3A of the EP&A Act provides a process for the assessment and approval of major infrastructure and other projects. Major infrastructure projects tend to be projects of State or regional environmental planning significance.

Part 4 of the EP&A Act includes requirements for consideration of environmental impacts as part of the land use planning process. Environmental impacts include cultural heritage impacts, and as such any required Review of Environmental Factors (REF), Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should incorporate an assessment of Aboriginal and historic cultural heritage.

The consent authority is required to consider the impact on all Aboriginal heritage values, including natural resource uses or landscape features of spiritual importance, as well as the impact on Aboriginal Objects and Aboriginal Places.

The EP&A Act also controls the making of environmental planning instruments (EPIs). Two types of EPIs can be made: Local Environmental Plans (LEPs), covering local government areas; and State Environment Planning Policies (SEPPs), covering areas of State or regional environmental planning significance. LEPs commonly identify and have provisions for the protection of local heritage items and heritage conservation areas. The study area is located within the boundary of the North Sydney LGA.

2.4.1 North Sydney LEP 2001

Part 4 of the North Sydney LEP 2001 is consistent with current heritage best practice guidelines, providing for the protection of heritage buildings, works, relics or places, archaeological resources, and items of Aboriginal heritage. Clause 45(1)(a) of the LEP specifies that Council consent is required for works which will or are likely to discover, expose, move, damage or destroy an Aboriginal site or an archaeological resource. Clause 46 requires that the impact of a proposed development on the heritage significance of an Aboriginal site is assessed before consent is granted.

Although there are no Aboriginal heritage items identified in Schedule 3 'Heritage items' of the North Sydney LEP 2001, the explanatory notes for Clause 46 specifies that:

Any work to a site that is discovered to be the location of an Aboriginal site or a relic, within the meaning of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, requires a permit from the Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Aboriginal sites may be found in sandstone areas, especially:

- *Ridge tops & ridge sides - engravings and axe grooves;*
- *Middle & lower slopes, with cliff lines or isolated boulders - shelters with occupation deposit and art;*
- *Lower slopes & water courses - axe grinding grooves, waterholes (sometimes artificially deepened) abraded grooves to direct flow; occasional engravings.*

The potential for these to have survived depends on the history of disturbance by non-Aboriginal land uses. There is a higher likelihood of Aboriginal sites, and archaeological assessment should be sought, where there are creek lines/ watercourses, even if ephemeral; cliff lines/boulders higher than 1.5m; overhangs in the cliff lines; ground level /low outcrops of at least 1m².

2.4.2 North Sydney DCP 2002

Section 8.6 of the North Sydney DCP 2002 provides guidelines for the preservation and protection of Aboriginal heritage, as follows:

- a. Known and potential Aboriginal sites are preserved and protected when development occurs.*
 - i. There is no excavation of ground surface surrounding a known or potential Aboriginal site;*
 - ii. Locate building or landscaping works, paths and driveways away from Aboriginal sites, allowing for in-situ preservation of artifacts [sic];*
 - iii. Minimise disturbance and exposure of areas along the foreshore, including excavations for swimming pools, jetties and boat sheds. Site new structures away from the foreshore where possible;*
 - iv. Minimise disturbance of surrounding rock outcrops and overhangs;*

v. Prior to proposing excavation get the advice of a Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council Officer, North Sydney Council Aboriginal Heritage Manager or contact the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

2.5 National Trust of Australia (NSW)

The National Trust of Australia is a private, not-for-profit organisation committed to conserving Australia's heritage. Listing with the National Trust of Australia does not have statutory authority; however, it does have a role in raising public awareness of heritage issues.

The Graythwaite site is listed by the National Trust, however, there are no Aboriginal heritage items on the site, nor are there any National Trust listed Aboriginal heritage items within the vicinity of the study area.

3 Environmental Context

An understanding of environmental factors within the local landscape provides a context for analysing past human occupation and history of an area. The natural environment was, and is, of key importance to Aboriginal people for both cultural and spiritual reasons. It also provided a wealth of natural resources for subsistence, tool making and occupation. The characteristics of the natural environment often influenced occupation and subsistence strategies. For the purpose of cultural heritage management, the analysis of environmental factors is important as it contributes to the development of predictive models for archaeological sites, as well as providing a basis to contextualise the archaeological material and to interpret patterns of past human behaviour.

3.1 Topography

The study area is located on undulating to rolling rises and low hills. Localised steep slopes, high soil erosion and rocky outcrops are encountered in this region generally (Chapman & Murphy 1989:65). In general, Aboriginal occupation was often focussed on prominent landforms such as ridges, which were favourable locations for camping and travelling, and from which surrounding plant and animal resources could be viewed. Conversely, the steep slopes in the study area would have been unfavourable for camping or extensive travelling, and hence are considered unlikely to contain evidence of Aboriginal occupation. An early (1878) watercolour painting of Berrys Bay gives an indication of the nature of the topography and former vegetation in the area (Figure 3.1).



Figure 3.1 Topography of Berrys Bay foreshore (Troedel 1878 nla.pic-an8810996-v).

3.2 Geology and Soils

The study area is located on Hawkesbury Sandstone, which consists of medium to coarse-grained quartz sandstone with minor shale and laminite lenses (Chapman & Murphy 1989:64). The

Hawkesbury Sandstone formation dates from the Anisian (middle Triassic) period, 235-241 million years ago (Hazelton & Tille 1990:2, 66; Geoscience Australia 2008).

Aboriginal people often used outcroppings of Hawkesbury Sandstone as surfaces for art (such as engraving and drawing/painting), and sandstone shelters for camping. Outcrops located near water could also be used for sharpening stone axes/tools; creating grinding grooves. Sandstone outcrops appear to occur naturally in some parts of the study area, and as such it is possible that rock engravings/art sites may have originally been present; however it is unlikely that any such sites are preserved, given the extensive past disturbance of the site (see Section 3.5). Visual survey indicates that sandstone does not outcrop as cliffs/shelters in the study area, and therefore shelter sites will not be present. Further, as this stone is unsuitable for artefact manufacture, stone quarry sites will not be present in the study area.

The study area is part of the Gynea soil landscape. There are a number of dominant soil materials, with loose, coarse, sandy loam generally occurring as topsoil and earthy, yellowish-brown clayey sand commonly occurring as subsoil over sandstone bedrock. Yellowish-brown sandy clay loam occurs as subsoil primarily on coarse sandstone, and yellowish-brown clay occurs as subsoil on shale bedrock (Chapman & Murphy 1989:65).

What remains of the original soil landscape of the study area is shallow, highly permeable, moderately acidic, of very low fertility and eroded (Chapman & Murphy 1989:67).

3.3 Hydrology and Drainage

The study area is approximately 400m north-east of Berrys Bay and 600m north-west of Lavender Bay. The high water line of Berrys Bay was recorded in 1873 as coming roughly within 300m of the westernmost boundary of the study area (Graham Edds & Associates 2000:3-12).

Given the distance from the harbour, it is unlikely that extensive midden deposits are present in the study area, although some shell remains may occasionally have been discarded in the study area during travel inland from the harbour. Occupation sites including open stone artefact scatters, or isolated finds resulting from travel through the landscape, may occur within the study area. However, the steep slopes in the study area would have been unfavourable for camping or extensive travelling, and hence are considered unlikely to contain evidence of Aboriginal occupation. Rather, coastal and riverine areas, including the harbour, would have been most frequently occupied for their water and marine food resources.

3.4 Vegetation

The original vegetation of the area has been extensively cleared and landscaped, and no remnant, mature native vegetation remains. This indicates that no scarred or carved trees will be present in the study area. The original vegetation comprised dry sclerophyll woodland and open forest with low, dry sclerophyll open woodland dominating the upper slopes, the dry sclerophyll understorey incorporating shrubs from the Ericaceae (Epacridaceae), Myrtaceae, Fabaceae and Proteaceae families. Other common species included: Red Bloodwood (*Eucalyptus gummifera*), Yellow Bloodwood (*E. eximia*), Scribbly Gum (*E. haemastoma*), Brown Stringybark (*E. capitellata*), Old Man Banksia (*Banksia serrata*), Black Ash (*E. sieberi*), Sydney Peppermint (*E. piperita*) and Smooth Barked Apple (*Angophora costata*) (Chapman & Murphy 1989:65).

3.5 Land Use and Disturbance

The information in this section has been compiled from the history prepared by Nick Jackson for the Tanner Architects CMP, and from the history prepared by Graham Edds & Associates (2000).

The Graythwaite site is located within the 39 acres granted by purchase to Thomas Walker on 6 October 1832.

The complex of buildings on the site includes the original stables building constructed c.1833 and Coach House constructed c.1888. It also includes the residence and kitchen block, which were progressively built between 1854 and 1882 on the site of the original c.1833 residence, Euroka Cottage. The site also includes the c.1915 recreation building (the Tom O'Neill Centre) and c.1918 Ward Building, which was progressively modified and added to up until the 1940s.

The site was used as a grand residence between 1833 and 1915 before it was adapted to become a convalescent home for soldiers returning from World War I. Between 1920 and 1980 it was used as a hostel for soldiers with long-term disabilities, and from 1980 to 2009 it was used as a nursing home and facility for dementia patients. The site was recently purchased by the Shore School.

The site has been extensively modified since 1833. The original landscaping of the site involved the removal of substantial areas of native vegetation (Figure 3.2). Considerable landscaping and construction activity has taken place in the study area for over 170 years. Modifications to the original environment has included extensive landscaping including terracing, planting orchards and vineyards, formal gardens, embankments, lawns, outbuildings, stables, a carriageway and a well (Figure 3.3). In addition, in c.1936, while in use as a hospital, a farm was maintained on the property, producing eggs, milk, fodder crops and vegetables.

Areas surrounding many of the buildings and throughout the grounds have been surfaced with concrete or bitumen for parking cars, walkways, etc. (Figure 3.4).

Given the high level of disturbance to the original ground surface, the probability that any Aboriginal sites remain in the study area is low.

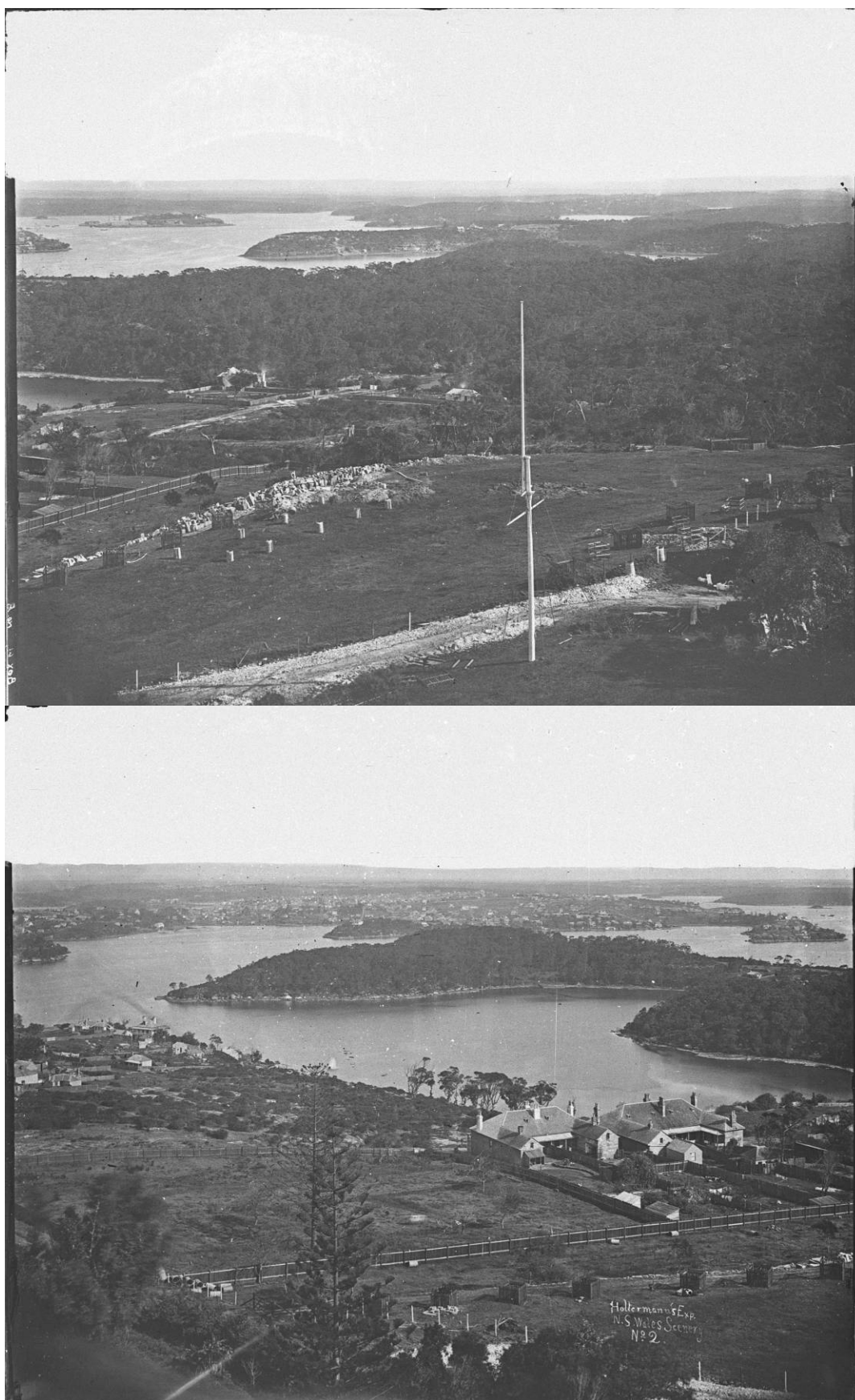


Figure 3.2 Two panoramas of Sydney Harbour by the American & Australasian Photographic Company taken from Holtermann's Tower, mid 1870s. Note that the site (in the foreground) has been cleared of native vegetation (Source: State Library NSW – Home and Away – 40257 and 40258).



Figure 3.3 Looking west from Holtermann's tower over the grounds of Graythwaite, undated (probably late 1880s). Note the terracing evident in the grounds (Source: State Library NSW – Small Picture File 709 – Sydney from North Shore / Kerry & Co. photograph).



Figure 3.4 Ground surface near Graythwaite buildings covered for car parking (Graham Edds & Associates 2000:4-6).

4 Aboriginal Archaeological Context

This chapter describes the nature of the known Aboriginal archaeology of the study area, based upon a review of relevant archaeological reports and publications, and a search and review of previously recorded sites in DECC's AHIMS database. This review and discussion has been undertaken to allow the development of a predictive model for potential Aboriginal sites within the study area, and to establish a context for a comparative significance assessment.

4.1 Ethnographic Context

In 1790 Governor Phillip described the Aboriginal inhabitants of the Sydney region. The study area lies within the district he associated with the Gamaragal (also spelt Cammeraygal, Camerragal or Càmeeragal) (cited in Attenbrow 2003:22):

About the north-west part of this harbour there is a tribe...The district is called Cammerra, by which name the men of that tribe are distinguished. A woman of this tribe is called Cammerragalleon.

The wife of Bennelong was also known as Gamaragalleon (Attenbrow 2002:34). In 1798, David Collins (deputy judge advocate under Governor Phillip; ADB 1966) also described the Aboriginal group (cited in Attenbrow 2003:22):

Those who live on the north shore of Port Jackson are called Cam-mer-ray-gal, that part of the harbour being distinguished from the others by the name of Cam-mer-ray.

It is not certain but it has been suggested that the people in the study area would have belonged to the Darug language group, speaking a coastal dialect that was in use between Botany Bay and the northern shores of Port Jackson (Attenbrow 2003:34).

4.2 Regional Archaeological Context

Aboriginal occupation of the Sydney basin (of which the study area is a part) is likely to have spanned at least 20,000 years, although dates of more than 40,000 years have been obtained from artefacts found in gravels of the Cranebrook Terrace on the Nepean River (Nanson *et al* 1987; Stockton 1993; Stockton & Holland 1974). Late Pleistocene occupation sites have been identified on the fringes of the Sydney basin and from rockshelter sites in adjoining areas. Dates obtained from these sites are 14,700 years Before Present (BP) at Shaws Creek in the Blue Mountain foothills (Kohen *et al* 1984), c.11,000 BP at Mangrove Creek and Loggers Shelter (Attenbrow 1981, 2004), and c.20,000 BP at Burrill Lake on the South Coast (Lampert 1971). The majority of sites in the region, however, date to within the last 3,000 to 5,000 years, with many researchers proposing that occupation intensity increased from this period (Attenbrow 1987, 2003, 2004; Kohen 1986; McDonald 1994; McDonald & Rich 1993). Such an increase in occupation intensity may have been influenced by rising sea levels, which stabilised approximately 6,500 years ago. Older occupation sites along the now submerged coastline would have been flooded, with subsequent occupation concentrating along, and utilising resources of, the current coastlines and the changing ecological systems of the hinterland (Attenbrow 2002).

A regional pattern in archaeological sites of eastern Australia has been identified, and described as the Eastern Regional Sequence (ERS) (Attenbrow 2003:153-158; McCarthy 1961, 1964). The earliest sites of the ERS are classified as Capertian (over 5,000 years ago). The Capertian is primarily characterised by free-hand percussion (as opposed to the use of an anvil for bipolar flaking techniques), while only limited evidence for bipolar flaking is evident in this period. Tools generally consist of flakes with retouch and usewear, and are larger on average than those recovered from later periods of occupation. The Bondaian period begins around 5,000 years ago and is characterised by types of

retouched flakes known as backed artefacts. Backed artefact types include Bondi Points and geometric microliths. Other tool types include Eloueras. Tools from the Bondaian period are generally smaller than tools recovered from Capertian period deposits.

4.3 Local Archaeological Context

A search of the AHIMS database identified 124 registered Aboriginal sites within a 3km x 3km search area centred on the study area. The search results are summarised in Table 4.1 and Figure 4.1. The search revealed that there are no registered Aboriginal sites within the study area (Figure 4.2). As mentioned in Section 2.2.1 above, the translation of the geographic coordinates for some sites, from imperial to AMG by DECCW, has resulted in some inaccuracies in site locations. This is evident in Figure 4.1 and Figure 4.2 with some sites apparently located in the water, when they should be located on shorelines.

The most common site types in the search area are shell middens, in rockshelter and open contexts. This is to be expected, given their location around the bays on the shores of the harbour. Other shelter and sandstone sites are also quite common in this Hawkesbury Sandstone area. However, the search also reveals that sites have not generally been registered at a distance from the harbour. This is likely to be a reflection of the early urban development of North Sydney, which would have precluded the preservation of sites and the necessity for archaeological assessment, rather than an indication of less intense Aboriginal occupation of the area.

Table 4.1 All AHIMS Sites in the Search Area

Site Type	Number Recorded	Percentage
Shelter with Midden	42	33.9
Midden	30	24.2
Rock Engraving	14	11.3
Midden, Open Camp Site	8	6.5
Shelter with Art	8	6.5
Shelter with Art and Midden	6	4.8
Shelter with Deposit	2	1.6
Open Camp Site	2	1.6
Burial/s, Shelter with Midden	2	1.6
Shelter with Art and Deposit	1	0.8
Midden, Shelter with Deposit	1	0.8
Midden, Shelter with Art	1	0.8
Burial/s, Midden	1	0.8
Burial/s, Shelter with Art, Shelter with Midden	1	0.8
Axe Grinding Groove, Rock Engraving	1	0.8
Habitation Structure	1	0.8
Habitation Structure, Midden	1	0.8
Contact, Mission, Midden, Shelter with Deposit	1	0.8
Not an Aboriginal Site	1	0.8
Total	124	100



Legend

Study Area

AHIMS Site Types

- Axe Grinding Groove, Rock Engraving
- ✚ Burial/s, Midden
- ✚ Burial/s, Shelter with Art, Shelter with Midden
- ✚ Burial/s, Shelter with Midden
- ✚ Contact, Mission, Midden, Shelter with Deposit
- ✚ Habitation Structure
- ✚ Habitation Structure, Midden
- ▲ Midden
- ▲ Midden, Open Camp Site
- ▲ Midden, Shelter with Art
- ▲ Midden, Shelter with Deposit
- Not an Aboriginal Site
- Open Camp Site
- Rock Engraving
- Shelter with Art
- Shelter with Art, Shelter with Deposit
- Shelter with Art, Shelter with Midden
- Shelter with Deposit
- Shelter with Midden

0 0.35 0.7 1.4 2.1 2.8 Kilometres

Topographic data © Copyright Commonwealth of Australia (Geoscience Australia) 2001
Horizontal datum: GDA94/MGA Zone 56



Figure 4.1 Registered AHIMS sites within 3km of the study area.



Figure 4.2 Registered AHIMS sites in closest vicinity to the study area.

Within the general vicinity of the study area, several regional studies have been undertaken. In 1989-90, Attenbrow undertook the Port Jackson Archaeological Project; Koettig undertook a study of Aboriginal heritage sites in the Hornsby LGA in 1996; McDonald carried out the Sydney Basin Rock Art Project, over several years, for the NPWS (now DECCW) and as part of her doctoral research (McDonald 1985, 1987, 1990, 1994), and NPWS completed an Aboriginal Sites Planning Study for the Lane Cove River State Recreation Area in 1990.

A study of the Sydney region reveals that Aboriginal sites are distributed across the range of physiographic units and environmental zones; although certain types of sites may be more frequently associated with certain parts of the landscape (for example, shelter sites are particularly common in areas of Hawkesbury Sandstone), and different parts of the landscape contain different resources, which may be seasonally available or highly localised (Koettig 1996). Hence, middens are common in the Part Jackson region around the shores of bays, rivers, harbours and the coast, in areas where shellfish are available. Attenbrow found, from a review of excavation work in the Port Jackson area, that Aboriginal people were living around the harbour foreshores gathering shellfish at least 4,500 years ago, that the number and species of shellfish represented in middens varied according to distance from the harbour mouth, and that a change from exploitation of predominantly cockle (*Anadara trapezia*) to predominantly oysters (*Saccostrea commercialis*) appears to have occurred over time in this region (ibid.). She also found that most middens are located within 10m of the high water level, and that burials were placed in open middens as well as in middens within rockshelters. In the same year, the NPWS (1990) observed that regional excavations of coastal sites with midden layers indicated the exploitation of a variety of sea and land resources.

The number of sites or amount of archaeological evidence found in any specific area varies. It should also be recognised that the archaeological evidence within any particular site can vary considerably in quantity and the range of evidence that is present. Further, the distribution of presently recorded sites in some areas is unlikely to be indicative of the original distribution of Aboriginal sites and therefore may not be a reliable guide to the occupation history of that area (Koettig 1996). Accordingly, without professional archaeological assessment of an area, the sites most likely to have been recorded are those which are most obvious to non-professionals, such as rockshelters and art sites.

Nevertheless, Hawkesbury Sandstone does outcrop in, and underlie the local area of North Sydney (including the study area). Therefore, it may be expected that occupation deposits will most frequently be found in rockshelters, and that art (including engravings) and axe grinding grooves will be present in areas that contain the appropriate resources; sandstone. Further, the Sydney Basin Rock Art Project revealed that most shelters with art are located on hilltops (with some found on valley bottoms and ridgetops); approximately a quarter of shelter with art sites are associated with known archaeological deposit; most rock engravings are located on horizontal sandstone exposures on ridgetops or slopes (or occasionally in valleys); and approximately 13% of rock engravings are associated with axe grinding grooves (McDonald 1985b, 1987, 1990, 1994). However, it should be noted that some sites cannot be detected through inspection of the ground surface or rock surfaces alone, and that shelters without visible occupation deposit may be sites (Koettig 1996:57).

It is recognised that, although sites may be found in all topographic units and in all parts of the landscape, the areas with particularly high archaeological sensitivity within this Hawkesbury Sandstone region are the estuarine foreshore, creeklines with sandstone beds, sandstone platforms/outcrops larger than 5m², sandstone cliffline or isolated boulders more than 2m high, and creek flats on sandstone, alluvium or shale (Koettig 1996:57, 75). Despite the high level of disturbance that has occurred generally within the region, and particularly in some parts of the study area, many sites (or parts of them) are often in relatively good condition, and sites close to (as opposed to within) residential development can survive well (Koettig 1996:58).

4.4 Aboriginal Heritage Site Prediction Model

On the basis of the archaeological sites registered in the region and review of previous archaeological investigation, the following conclusions can be drawn regarding the potential presence and location of Aboriginal heritage sites within the landscape of the study area.

Sites that may be Present

- Stone artefact sites may be present within the study area, although the steep nature of much of the study area and the distance from fresh water indicates that this is unlikely to have been a favourable location for camping. Further, any such sites are likely to have been significantly disturbed (and hence not *in situ*) by the urban development that has occurred.
- Rock engravings or art sites may be present on sandstone outcrops in the study area; however, it is unlikely that any such sites are preserved.
- The presence of some ground exposure indicates that artefacts remaining in the study area may be visible during a site visit.

Sites Unlikely to be Present

- It is unlikely that midden deposits will be present within the study area, given the distance from Sydney Harbour.
- The lack of suitable stone outcrops and water courses indicates that stone quarry sites, axe grinding grooves, shelter sites and middens will not be found in the study area.
- The lack of remnant mature native trees indicates that scarred or carved trees will not be present in the study area.
- Burials are unlikely to occur in the area as they are usually found in association with open middens or in rockshelters with midden deposit.
- Ceremonial sites (including stone arrangements) are unlikely to be present in the area, given the long history of disturbance resulting from the development of the site.

5 Aboriginal Heritage Survey

5.1 Survey Methodology

The Aboriginal cultural heritage survey was undertaken on 15 April 2010 by AMBS archaeologist Jenna Weston, accompanied by Aboriginal community representative Mr. Allen Madden (see Section 1.2.1). The fieldwork methodology, the context of the Aboriginal heritage assessment and available mapping information were discussed with Mr. Madden prior to fieldwork. The findings of the survey and recommendations were discussed with Mr. Madden in the field, and his comments have been incorporated into this report.

The purpose of the survey was to identify the potential for archaeologically sensitive areas to be present within the study area. Since no archaeological sites had been previously recorded within the study area, the survey aimed to inspect the area for any new archaeological sites and potential archaeological deposits.

The survey involved pedestrian transects throughout vegetated sections of the study area, focussing particularly on areas of ground exposure, relatively undisturbed areas, and sandstone outcrops. If any Aboriginal artefacts were encountered, notes were to be made regarding their type, size, and material, descriptions of the site were to be recorded including the environmental setting and details of any disturbance to archaeological material in the site's vicinity, and Australian Map Grid (AMG) coordinates were to be taken by a handheld Magellan Explorist 500LE GPS unit. Photographs of objects and their location were also to be taken. Photographs of the study area in general were taken using a Canon EOS 300D digital camera.

5.2 Survey Results

No Aboriginal sites were located during the survey.

The entire study area was found to have been severely impacted by development of the Graythwaite site from 1833, initially as a residence, and later as a convalescent home, hostel and nursing home. The most elevated part of the study area is occupied by the former grand residence and associated outbuildings and twentieth century structures, and the remainder of the area comprised grassy lawns and terraced gardens with large, exotic trees (Figure 5.1). There were a number of exposed areas which were inspected for Aboriginal artefacts, and which mainly occurred on rough walking tracks through the terraced areas, and along the western and south-western property boundaries (Figure 5.2).

In the areas of visibility, soils were seen to be sandy, with some dark loamy sands overlying lighter sands. No shell or stone artefacts were seen in these soils. Some fragmented Hawkesbury Sandstone was noted on the site, some which appeared to be *in situ*. However, no Aboriginal art or axe grinding grooves were seen on the sandstone.

No areas of Aboriginal heritage sensitivity were identified in the study area. Given the extent of disturbance to the original land surface, and the topography, which is generally unfavourable for frequent or long-term occupation, it is not considered that there is any archaeological potential for intact or substantial Aboriginal heritage deposits on the site. Further, no Aboriginal cultural issues or sensitivities were identified by Allen Madden for the site.



Figure 5.1 Nature of the study area, showing slopes and terraces, buildings, lawns and exotic plantings.

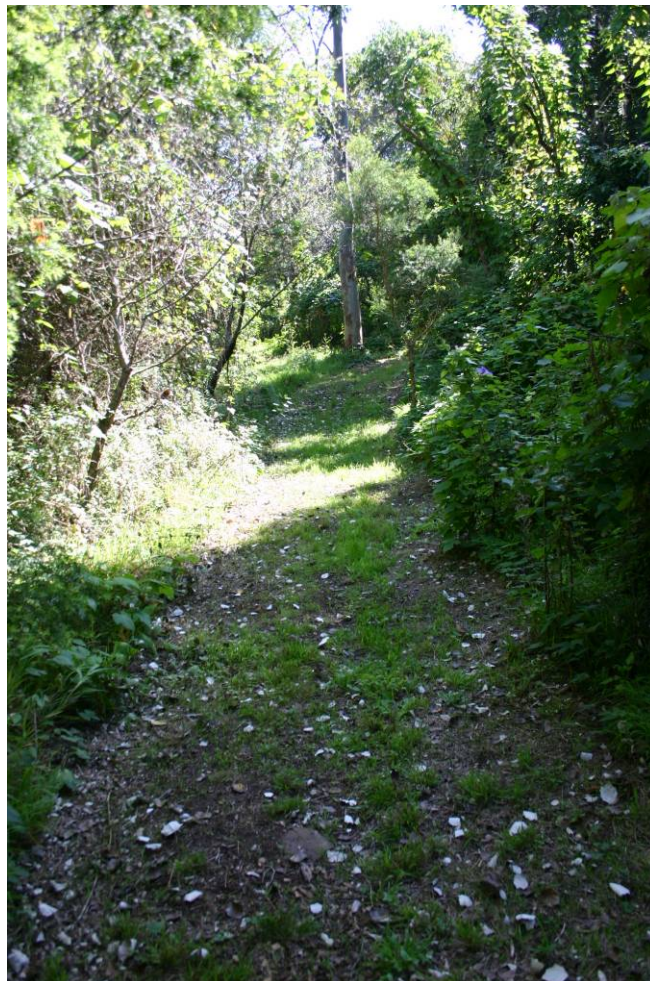


Figure 5.2 Walking track along the western boundary of the study area.

6 Assessing Heritage Significance

6.1 Preamble

A primary step in the process of Aboriginal cultural heritage management is the assessment of significance. Heritage significance relating to Aboriginal sites, objects and places in NSW is assessed in accordance with the criteria defined in the DECCW guidelines, and cultural significance is identified by Aboriginal communities. The criteria for assessing Aboriginal significance are derived from the Burra Charter criteria of aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for assessing cultural significance for past, present and future generations. The following assessment is also consistent with relevant NSW heritage assessment criteria, as defined in *Assessing Heritage Significance, prepared by the NSW Heritage Office, 2001*.

6.2 Assessment of Scientific Significance

Scientific significance is assessed using the following criteria to evaluate the contents of a site, state of preservation, integrity of deposits, representativeness of the site type, rarity/uniqueness and potential to answer research questions on past human behaviour (NPWS 1997b:5).

- *Representativeness* – all sites are representative of those in their class (site type/subtype); however, this issue relates to whether particular sites should be conserved to ensure that a representative sample of the archaeological record is retained. Representativeness is based on an understanding of the regional archaeological context in terms of site variability in and around the study area, the resources already conserved and the relationship of sites across the landscape. This is consistent with NSW heritage assessment *Criterion g*), and aspects are also consistent with *Criterion a*).
- *Rarity* – defines how distinctive a site may be, based on an understanding of what is unique in the archaeological record and consideration of key archaeological research questions (i.e. some sites are considered more important due to their ability to provide scientific or cultural information). It may be assessed at local, regional, state and national levels. This criterion is consistent with NSW heritage assessment *Criterion f*), and aspects are also consistent with *Criterion a*).
- *Archaeological Research Potential* – significance may be based on the potential of a site or landscape to explain past human behaviour. For example, hearths with charcoal have the potential to be dated and thus contribute to the chronology of occupation in a region. Rockshelters with art have the potential to contribute to our understanding of art motifs or styles in a region. This criterion is consistent with NSW heritage assessment *Criterion e*).

The study area is not considered to have any archaeological potential for intact or substantial Aboriginal heritage deposits. Further, no Aboriginal sites or areas of Aboriginal heritage sensitivity were identified within the study area. As such, the site is not considered to have scientific significance.

6.3 Assessment of Cultural Significance

This area of assessment concerns the value(s) of a site or feature to a particular community group – in this case the local Aboriginal community or communities. Aspects of social significance are relevant to sites, items and landscapes that are important, or have become important, to the local Aboriginal community. This importance involves both traditional links with specific areas as well as an overall concern by Aboriginal people for sites and landscapes generally and their future protection. Aboriginal cultural significance may include social, spiritual, historic and archaeological values. Aboriginal cultural significance assessments can only be made by the relevant Aboriginal communities. This is consistent with NSW heritage assessment *Criterion d*).

Allen Madden has indicated that the Graythwaite site does not have any specific cultural significance to the MLALC Aboriginal community.

6.4 Summary Statement of Significance

The study area is not considered to have any scientific or cultural significance for Aboriginal heritage.

7 Conclusion

The majority of registered AHIMS sites in the region of the study area are middens and Hawkesbury Sandstone shelters, which occur along Sydney Harbour. However, there are no registered AHIMS sites in the study area or in its vicinity, and no new Aboriginal sites or areas of Aboriginal heritage sensitivity were identified during the survey. This confirms the predictive model, and was expected given the early development of the area of North Sydney.

Although the study area would have originally been used by Cammeraygal people for many thousands of years, no evidence of their occupation or activities appears to remain on the Graythwaite site. The site has been extensively modified since European settlement of the area, particularly to create the terraces throughout the steep topography in the south-western portion of the study area. None of the original vegetation, which would have been present at the time of settlement, is extant.

Given the extent of disturbance to the original land surface at Graythwaite and the steep topography, it is not considered that there is any archaeological potential for intact or substantial Aboriginal heritage deposits on the site. Further, no Aboriginal cultural issues or sensitivities were identified for the site by Mr Allen Madden of MLALC. As such, there are no Aboriginal heritage constraints for the property.

This conclusion is consistent with the advice provided by Mr Allen Madden of the MLALC, who also stated that there were no Aboriginal heritage constraints for the Graythwaite site. Nevertheless, Mr Madden requested that a representative of the MLALC be present should there be any ground disturbance or excavation, or any vegetation clearance, to the south and west of the main residence, to allow an inspection for any Aboriginal heritage material.

This draft report was sent to MLALC for review and comment on 7 May 2010. MLALC provided written feedback on the draft report on 17 May 2010, agreeing with the results and recommendations (Appendix A).

Should any Aboriginal objects be discovered during any future works on the site, excavation or disturbance of the area should stop immediately and the Cultural Heritage Division of DECCW should be informed in accordance with Section 91 of the NPW Act. MLALC should also be contacted by the Shore School in such an event. Works should not continue without the written consent of DECCW.

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Appendix A

Aboriginal Community Feedback

PURPOSE OF THIS FORM

This form is intended to make it easier for Aboriginal parties to provide comments and feedback on Aboriginal heritage reports. It is not obligatory to provide feedback in this way, however if you would like to use this form, please fill out, sign and return to AMBS by fax to (02) 9320 6428, email to jenna.weston@austrmus.gov.au or post to:

AMBS
Attn Jenna Weston
6 College Street Sydney NSW 2010

Alternatively, if you would like to provide feedback in another form such as by personal letter or email, please feel free to do so.

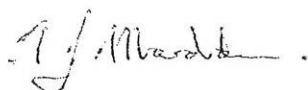
ABORIGINAL FEEDBACK

I, Allen Madden

of Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council

agree with the results, Aboriginal significance and conclusion in the AMBS survey report (dated May 2010) for the Aboriginal heritage assessment of the Graythwaite site, which was surveyed on 15 April by Allen Madden **and/or**

Signature



Date 17th May 2010

Position within Aboriginal group: Site Officer